

East Bay gays honor their own
Twelve community leaders to be
recognized at Trailblazer Awards.

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Attention K-Mart shoppers
AIDSphobia special,
now at Express Check-out.

page 3

HiLarious
Comic Lea DeLaria
on medium fame.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 27 • No. 8 • 20 February 1997

Serving the Gay & Lesbian Community for more than 25 years

Imperial Court turns 25

by Mary Richards

All 24 men who have held the title of Emperor of San Francisco will be honored when the San Francisco Council of Emperors celebrates the beginning of its 25th Silver Jubilee year this Friday, February 21 at the Giraffe on Polk Street.

Former Emperor Steve Rascher is in charge of the arrangements for the formal cocktail party, to be held from 5 to 8 p.m. at the Polk Street bar. Framed pictures of permanent title-holders will be displayed, and each emperor will receive a special plaque in recognition of his reign and service to the community. Eight posthumous plaques will be dedicated to emperors who have passed away.

The Imperial Court of Emperors and Empresses is based on the fascinating true-life character of Joshua Abraham Norton, who in a burst of enthusiasm proclaimed himself Emperor of this city last century. San Franciscans, always ready to appreciate the odd and unusual, accepted him as their mascot, and he reigned unofficially from 1859 to 1880.

In 1965, gay entertainer Jose Sarria named himself the Absolute 1st Empress,

and identified himself as the wife of the former emperor, or The Widow Norton. That monarchy, which began with a sense of humor and a hope to raise money, has grown to encompass 61 courts in its system by now, and is planning a web page on the Internet.

This year's candidates for Emperor include Paul Scates, John Benoit, and Jacques Michaels. Crimson, Valentine, and Veranda Lanai competed for the title of Empress.

Voting for Emperor and Empress took place last Saturday, February 15 at The Embassy Lounge on Polk Street; Under One Roof on Market and Castro; and the SF Eagle at 12th & Harrison. All day long, enthusiastic supporters of the candidates busily scurried from one locale to another, hustling votes, passing out buttons and beads, and heightening the visibility of the court system.

'A lot of responsibility'

Matthew Brown, who was emperor from 1986 to 1987 and is now chronicling the history of the court, describes the duties of a modern-day emperor in the gay community. "It's very important that you understand what the position is when you become an emperor," he told the *Bay Area Reporter*. "You have your normal work that you do as an individual, but then you have a lot of responsibility once you become emperor: getting out there, working with the community like an ambassador; being involved and helping charities; and setting up events."

History buffs will be interested to know that there were no consorts for the first seven Emperors. Like Queen Bees, they ruled alone until longtime *B.A.R.* columnist Mr. Marcus assumed his title of Emperor I (After Norton) in 1962. Marcus's reign helped merge the North and South of Market Street - "leather and lace" - into the Court system, and into the greater community.

Bobbie Pace (1980-1981) was the only Emperor not to have a Coronation, or a stepping down. His stepping down was celebrated as the Joshua Norton Court Fair.

The longest reigning Emperor was Gene Bettis, from September 1981 to January 1983. Before then, separate coronations were

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Stumping for the sovereignty: candidates for Emperor (left to right) Jacques Michaels, John Benoit, and Paul Scates stand behind the glamorous aspirants for the coveted Empress title, Crimson, Valentine, and Veranda Lanai.

Rick Gehlert

Bears return to Sf!

by Cynthia Laird

The Bears have arrived! Hundreds of those husky, fun-loving Bears and their admirers from around the United States and several countries have descended on San Francisco, and you can be sure they won't be in hibernation. The International Bear Rendezvous is underway and continues through Monday, February 24.

Bears of San Francisco (BOSF) is hosting the event at the Ramada Hotel on Market Street. Several area bars are also holding beer busts, brunches, and parties - all geared for the hirsute men who call themselves Bears.

Albert Oliver, BOSF events coordinator, told the *B.A.R.* that many events, including the "Celebrate San Francisco" bash Saturday night and Sunday's International Bear Competition, are already sold out. Over 700 people have registered for the rendezvous, he added.

"It's going pretty well," Oliver said of the last-minute preparations that he and other BOSF members were completing. "This is our big fundraiser of the year."

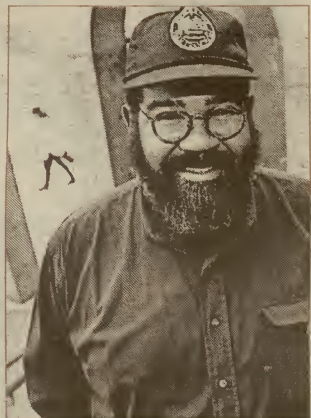
Oliver has had the task of coordinating Celebrate San Francisco. It will feature food and beverage samples from Bay Area establishments, as well as DJ dancing and live performances by The Derivative Duo from Seattle and local favorites The Kinsey Sicks, described as "America's favorite Dragapella Beauty Shop Quartet."

Comedian Danny Williams and singer/songwriter Pussy Torette will perform live at Sunday's competition.

There are still tickets available for the popular pub crawl, taking place at various South of Market locations Friday night. A beer bust will be held at the Eagle bar Saturday night. The Eagle also hosts Sunday's brunch and auction.

Monday's farewell party takes place at the Lone Star Saloon.

Bears can also meet Tim Barela, author



Gregory Fletcher

Oliver is just one of the many hot and husky bears who will descend on San Francisco this weekend for the annual Bear Rendezvous.

of Leonard and Larry, at The Bear Store's booth at the Ramada from noon to 4 p.m. Saturday.

BOSF was formed in 1994 as a social club with charitable intent. Centered in the San Francisco Bay Area, its membership is comprised of over 200 people in more than a dozen states and countries.

Between 1994 and 1996, BOSF contributed over \$35,000 to various charities at the local, state, and national levels. Money raised this weekend will also be distributed to charities.

BOSF will have merchandise available at the BOSF store located inside the Ramada during the rendezvous. ▼

The International Bear Rendezvous information line is (415) 541-5000.

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Gore meets with gay leaders

by Cynthia Laird

As the *B.A.R.* went to press, it was learned that Vice President Al Gore had scheduled a meeting with about a dozen local gay leaders for a private dinner at a Berkeley hotel Wednesday, February 19. Invitees were mostly current or former members of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors and a Southern California Assemblywoman.

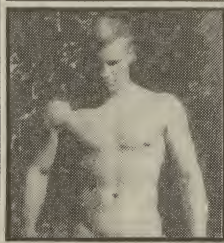


The vice president was in California this week to promote the Clinton administration's education goals and had several appearances at universities, including the University of California, Berkeley.

Gore also had lunch with Mayor Willie Brown and other top city officials Wednesday afternoon.

It is not known exactly what the agenda was for Gore's meeting with local gay leaders. ▼

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New bill in Sacramento revisits civil rights for gays, lesbians

by M. R. Covino, B.A.R.
Capitol Correspondent

On Wednesday, February 12, Assembly Majority Floor Leader Antonio R. Villaraigosa introduced AB 257, a bill which would add sexual orientation to other protected classes in California's Fair Employment and Housing Act. This bill revisits the issues that the hard-fought AB 101 addressed in 1991.

The Fair Employment and Housing Act currently prohibits discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, marital status, national origin, ancestry, familial status, or disability. AB 257 would add sexual orientation to that list.

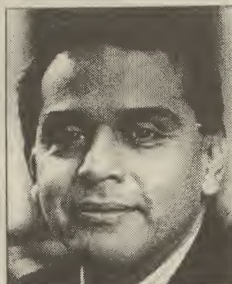
Villaraigosa, D-Los Angeles, was approached by LIFE Lobby in Sacramento to carry the bill, but seriously believes that the legislation is long overdue. "Currently, almost every group is protected from discrimination in housing and employment under the Fair Employment and Housing Act," Villaraigosa said. "But for too long, gays and lesbians have not been afforded this protection. This bill rectifies this deficiency."

"It will bring fairness and equal treatment under the law for this

community, and it is long overdue."

According to LIFE staffer Ellen McCormack, the lobby considers the legislation to be "priority one." As the bill's sponsor, LIFE will be doing grass roots organizing and preparing witnesses for testimony before committees and other groundwork to ease passage of the bill. However, McCormack did state that LIFE has received no assurances from the governor's office that the bill will not be vetoed.

According to Villaraigosa, "In the past, this bill had passed the Legislature only to be vetoed. I hope Governor Wilson gives this year's legislation the support it deserved. I look forward to working with him to reach what I believe is our mutual goal of strengthening antidiscrimination laws in this state."



Antonio Villaraigosa

The bill will be heard in either the Assembly Judiciary Committee or Assembly Labor and Employment in about 30 days. ▼

Gay youths chosen as '97 Pride Parade grand marshals

by Dennis Conkin

San Francisco lesbian and gay youth activists Jesse Costello-Good and Kent Khamsonvath have been named as the Grand Marshals of the 1997 Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Freedom Day Parade and Celebration.

The parade committee that produces the annual event also named Sabrina Sojourner, Chinese human rights activist Gary Wu, and pioneering gay minister Reverend William R. Johnson as marshals of the event. Also serving as marshals are marijuana activists Mary "Brownie Mary" Rathbun and Dennis Peron.

With a theme of "One Community, Many Faces," the week-end-long celebration is scheduled for June 28th and 29th. Organizers expect the route of the Sunday June 29th parade will follow Market Street from the Civic Center to the Embarcadero.

San Francisco's Pride Parade is the second-largest gathering in California, behind the annual Rose Bowl parade in Pasadena. For the last two years, the Bay Area celebration of sexual freedom and civil rights has been broadcast on KOFY-TV. ▼

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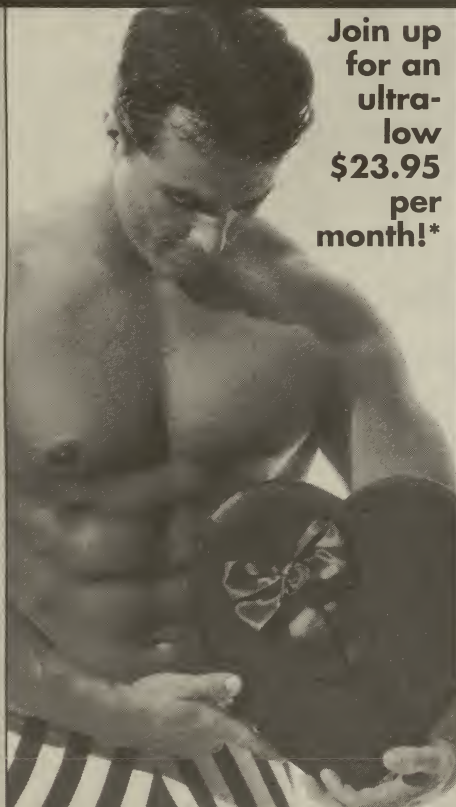
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HIV hysteria at Hayward K-Mart brings lawsuit

by Dennis Conkin

U.S. District Court D. Lowell Jensen last week rejected a motion to dismiss a federal AIDS discrimination lawsuit filed against the Hayward K-Mart, and admonished an attorney for the company for calling the man who filed the suit an "AIDS terrorist."

The suit was filed last October by a Nicaraguan man over an incident that happened when he was shopping with his four-year-old son last May. Aksel Dirkzwager alleges that after he used a K-Mart cashier's pen to write a check for Band-Aids and a Mother's Day present for his wife, the cashier asked him about a blister on his right index finger. According to Dirkzwager, after he told her that he might have HIV, the cashier went into hysterics, and he was escorted from the store and threatened by a security guard.

The judge's rejection of the dismissal motion now sends the suit to a mandatory case management conference.

"This is a great decision," said Dirkzwager's attorney, Waukeen Q. McCoy. "The case is going to go to trial."

Although Dirkzwager is heterosexual, McCoy told the *Bay Area Reporter* that such discrimination is familiar to the gay community and people with AIDS, and that the case's outcome is important to both groups.

"He was discriminated against because she [the cashier] felt he had AIDS," McCoy said. "She probably thought he was gay."

The incident took place last May 11, according to the complaint, which describes a "visibly nervous" cashier who "appeared to be frightened to touch" the pen that Dirkzwager used, or his check.

The Nicaragua-born Dirkzwager told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he was trying to explain the situation by explaining that he needed first aid for the blister on his right index finger, and mentioned that he might have HIV.

"She asked what happened to your finger. I was surprised. It wasn't leaking anything. I just needed a small bandage," he said.

'Attention K-Mart shoppers!'

Instead of compassion - or as-



Aksel Dirkzwager

sistance - Dirkzwager got a first-hand look at the kind of discrimination faced daily by people who have or are perceived to have AIDS.

According to the lawsuit, the still-unidentified cashier became "extremely agitated" and began screaming at him.

"Why didn't you tell me that you had AIDS before you used my pen? You contaminated my pen, and I already touched it," the cashier screamed.

According to the lawsuit, the cashier left her work station and paged the K-Mart manager, saying over the public address system that "someone in my line has AIDS, and he touched me."

Dirkzwager continued to stand in line until the security manager approached him and told him that he was to leave the store immediately and was barred from ever returning.

According to the complaint, the security manager also threatened Dirkzwager.

"You are lucky. I am not going to use force to kick your butt because your son is with you," the manager allegedly said - in front of witnesses and customers.

According to the lawsuit, Dirkzwager's four-and-a-half-year-old son was present for the entire incident, and was left frightened and sobbing.

Dirkzwager left the Hayward K-Mart without his check or the items.

'Terrorist threats'

McCoy told the *Bay Area Reporter* that Dirkzwager had "been worried" about HIV and was being honest with the clerk about his need for the bandages and was not trying to intimidate her, contrary to claims of K-Mart attorney John Dahlberg.

Dahlberg claimed in a legal response to the lawsuit that "the Americans With Disabilities Act does not protect plaintiffs who issue terrorist threats." Dahlberg failed to return a *Bay Area Reporter* phone call requesting clarification of the word "terrorist," or for comment about the judge's reported admonition prompted by its use.

McCoy also pointed out that the security manager allegedly violated Dirkzwager's constitutional rights when he told him that he didn't have a right to speak when he tried to explain his side of the story.

The post-traumatic stress of the incident has been severe, Dirkzwager said, and affects both himself and his son.

"Sometimes at night now, we do not sleep," Dirkzwager said. "I have never been treated like that before. I don't like it, I am not a terrorist. I am a human being."

"She was treating me very badly in front of my boy." ▼

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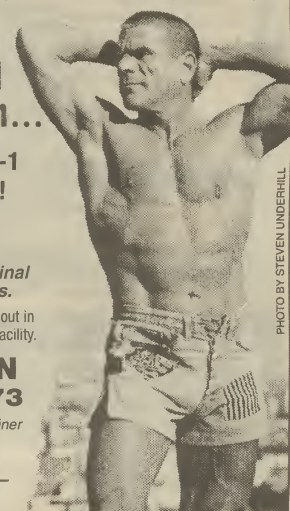


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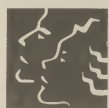


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Gay supes at top of Sierra Club's annual 'report card'

by Cynthia Laird

Openly gay Supervisors Tom Ammiano and Leslie Katz were recognized at a Wednesday, February 5 meeting of the Sierra Club's San Francisco chapter, as having the highest scores on the club's 1995-96 supervisors' "report card." Supervisor Sue Bierman rounded out the top three members of the board, said Harold Strassner of the Sierra Club's executive committee.

The club releases a performance report annually on the supervisors and summarized some of the major urban environmental issues. The club also announced environmental priorities for 1997, Strassner said.

"We tabulated the voting records of all the supervisors on environmental issues," Strassner explained. "Tom Ammiano scored 88 percent. Sue Bierman scored 86 percent for all 25 relevant environmental votes during the past two years. Leslie Katz, who sat on the board for only part of 1996, scored 100 percent on five votes."

For 1995-96 there were 25 votes the Sierra Club considered to

be environmental, Strassner said. In 1995, issues included the prohibition of new billboards in Union Square for one year and creating a cryptosporidium task force.

Last year, the board voted to ban in-store tobacco displays that are at minors' eye level and to ban especially hazardous pesticides in city parks.

One of Katz's votes was against advertising vessels on San Francisco Bay. The issue arose after a barge floated around the Bay carrying huge ads for a bank. Katz saw the giant floating billboard from her law office and quickly came out against the practice.

Ammiano told the B.A.R. he was honored to be recognized by the local Sierra Club. He then put his humorous spin on it, saying, "I've always thought fishnet should only be used for wearing."

Strassner said the Sierra Club's report card covers many issues that are important to all residents, including support for park and forest protection; working to bring about campaign finance and city charter reform; and seeking improved transit, bicycle, and pedestrian conditions.

Strassner went on to say the

club also opposes traffic-inducing legislation such as BART's 3,000-car parking garage south of San Francisco International Airport in Millbrae; opposes free parking and drive-through fast food outlets; opposes the Bayview-Hunters Point power plant; supports ending tobacco displays for minors; supports lead paint cleanup; and helps neighborhoods by trying to stabilize rents and stopping billboard proliferation.

Among the club's top priorities this year are continuing to advocate for the BART to the airport terminus to be at the airport; the clean-up of toxins at both Treasure Island and the Hunters Point Naval Shipyard; traffic and land uses near the Central Freeway; and traffic, parking, bicycling, and skating issues at Golden Gate Park.

"An informed public is important to a well-functioning legislative process," Strassner said. "Students need report cards to gauge how well they are doing. So do elected officials. We hope that this report card helps the public to know which of our legislators are working the hardest to serve us better and improve the city's environment." ▼

Bob Nelson leaving Catholic Charities to head Dolores Street Community Services

by Cynthia Laird

nounced the appointment of Bob Nelson as executive director effective Monday, March 3. Most recently, Nelson served as director of public policy and media relations for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of San Francisco.

Nelson said the recent controversy surrounding Archbishop William Levada, Catholic Charities, and the city's domestic partner benefit law had nothing to do with his accepting the new job.

"This career move was planned with the consultation of many people and took nearly a year to make," Nelson said in a statement.

DSCS, which has an operating budget of \$1 million, was organized in 1982 as a multi-service agency to address the needs of the people in the city's Mission and Castro neighborhoods. Programs include the Richard M. Cohen Residence for people with HIV, and the Dolores Housing Program that provides emergency housing for homeless

people in the Mission District.

"We are extremely excited about Mr. Nelson's appointment," said Charles P. Anderson, president of the agency's board of directors. "We know that his capabilities and experience combined with our mission and vision will lead us into the 21st Century. He has a passion for finding avenues out of poverty and homelessness."

Nelson has spent the last nine years at Catholic Charities, where he worked in the development of numerous programs and services for the homeless and underserved in the Bay Area. He also serves on Mayor Willie Brown's Welfare Reform Task Force and the board of directors of the National HIV Housing Coalition. Nelson was also a member of the Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council.

"Dolores Street Community Services and I make a great match. I am excited about our future," said Nelson. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

86 counts of homophobia in the air ...

More turbulence at American Airlines

by Dennis Conkin

Labor unrest at American Airlines has indefinitely stalled the planned out-of-court mediation of an 86-count anti-gay job bias complaint against the airline.

The discrimination complaint, filed with the City's Human Rights Commission last year by John McFarlane and ten other gay and lesbian American Airlines flight attendants, had been scheduled for mediation on Tuesday, February 18.

American Airlines pilots struck the company for 24 minutes on Friday night, but were ordered back to work for a 60-day "cooling-off" period by President Clinton.

The job-bias complaint filed by McFarlane and the other attendants includes allegations that airline security personnel maintained a "hit list" of gay flight attendants to target for harassment, illegal discrimination on the basis of HIV status and sexual orientation, and a pattern of anti-gay harassment by airline management at San Francisco International Airport.

"American Airlines is aware of, and sensitive to, the importance of the issues raised in the McFarlane matter and is committed to resolving any dispute as expeditiously as possible," said Enza Ricciardone, an American Airlines attorney.

But in a notice to Berkeley attorney Alice Philipson, Ricciardone said that American's participation in the mediation "was impossible" because of the strike activities, and the hearing would have to be rescheduled.

"This matter needs to be resolved. We need to put stuff behind us," said Patricia Bias, chair of the SFO chapter of the Association of Professional Flight Attendants.

"American Airlines has been looking over these complaints for more than two years. They've done everything they can to avoid responsibility, including lying to us on occasion," McFarlane told the Bay Area Reporter.

'Total lack of respect'

According to the mediation brief, the attendants experienced ongoing incidents of harassment and discriminatory treatment, including "slander regarding job performance, attendance, and health issues related to AIDS hysteria; disparaging remarks about their sexual orientation, falsification of evidence and personnel file documents, wrongful discipline and false charges."

In one 1993 incident detailed in the brief, a gay American Airlines flight attendant with HIV was followed into a men's restroom, and a security guard stood outside the toilet stall door refusing him privacy as he was sick with diarrhea and vomiting.

In other incidents, one worker was allegedly terminated on trumped-up charges but then rehired, an African-American worker was called "boy," and a lesbian worker who was apparently targeted for repeated harassment since 1987 was also allegedly ordered to drive 120 miles to report

to work — after suffering neck and dental injuries and a concussion in a major car accident.

Other incidents alleged by the workers include repeated violation of medical confidentiality and state and federal workplace disability guidelines.

"American has demonstrated a total lack of respect for the employee. As far as I'm concerned, it trickles down from the top," McFarlane told the Bay Area Reporter.

McFarlane twice contacted American Airlines president Don Carty about the anti-gay bias, but received no reply.

American Airlines spokeswoman Andrea Rader said that American was committed to the mediation, and that it would be rescheduled.

Rader claimed the some of the

issues in the complaints are related to a management-labor rift created by a 1993 flight attendant strike of the airline. She also said the flight attendants had not used the company's formal grievance process, or contacted its lesbian and gay employee group for assistance.

Despite a controversial multi-million dollar public relations effort aimed at the upscale gay travel market, American Airlines is best remembered among lesbians and gays for the international furor over its 1993 treatment of the late Timothy Holliss, a San Francisco gay man with end-stage AIDS and Kaposi's sarcoma. After refusing to comply with an American policy that his Kaposi's lesions must be covered, Holliss was arrested and dragged from a

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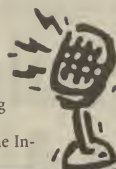
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OPEN FORUM

Politickled pink



Editorial

My, my, what behavior was witnessed in the Castro last weekend! Sister Mary Ignatius definitely wouldn't have approved of the hoards of shrieking drag queens (and kings), the ostentatious displays of stereotypical homosexual behavior, and utter frivolity that kept snarling the traffic, both automotive and pedestrian. Well, Sister be damned — we loved it.

In case anyone missed last weekend in the Castro (which seems unlikely, judging from the great number of great numbers parading about), the dutiful minions of the Empress and Emperor candidates were belling up to the bars, bubbling over with insouciant pleas for community members to vote for their candidates. The whole procedure got considerably wilder than we remember happening in recent years, and if laughter is the best medicine, those tipsy trolls were the antidote to whatever ails us.

Watching the electioneering, the open bribery, and the joy, we couldn't help but contrast it to the recent presidential election. How much more bearable it would have made the last multi-billion dollar campaign for the White House if Bill and Bob and Liddy and Hillary had all been running around in fake fur fun hats and faux leopard catsuits! How refreshing it would have been for the national candidates to have hung out at neighborhood watering holes buying average Americans a round or two, instead of selling coffee for \$100,000 a cup (and up) to international investors and politicians! How delightful it would have been, most of all, for it to have all been over and done with as quickly as the Emperor and Empress selection.

"Oh, Mary," sighs Emory, the queeny one in *Boys in the Band*, "it takes a fairy to make something pretty." He should have mentioned "and fun and exciting and relevant."

This weekend, the winners of the voting will be crowned; whoever wins, there are no real losers. All six candidates displayed a love

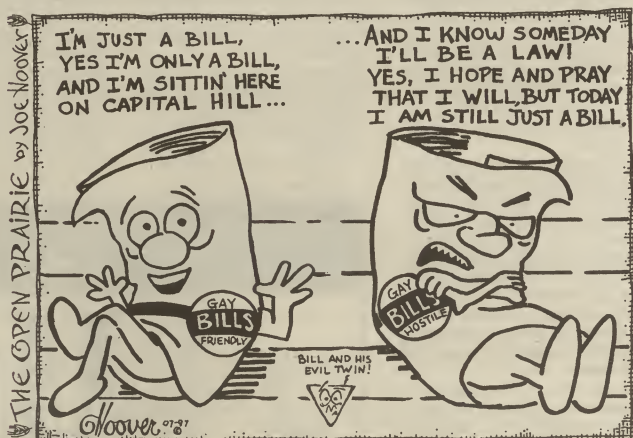
for their community and this city, for which they all deserve a big round of applause.

This is also the weekend for the International Bear Rendezvous, another glorious event that strengthens our community. The increasingly recognized sub-group of men who call themselves Bears has, until recently, been an overlooked commodity: too big and hairy to fit with the sleek era of disco dancing and that whisper-thin ideal of beauty too many of us got from national magazines, many large furry gay men in the '70s and '80s felt more isolated from the larger gay community than they did from heterosexual strangers. Their belated emergence as a vital (and sexy) part of our lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning community is just another great example of how all forms of

oppression can be overcome. It is also a terrific reminder that beauty is a personal thing, and that nobody needs to feel unattractive or unlovable.

So to all the bears who have come to town for this weekend, we say welcome. Have a good time. Play safe, and wear your rubbers if you're going to get wet.

Finally, here's a heads up for true political junkies who think we're just silly when we compare the fake tinsel of Empress elections with the genuine tinsel of national politics. This Wednesday, February 26, the San Francisco County Democratic Central Committee will meet at 100 Van Ness Avenue, on the 25th floor. Observers expect it to be an unforgettable meeting, particularly around the issue of affirmative action. If you are interested in being there and having a say, get there before it begins at 7 p.m. ▼



GLAAD stands with lesbian and gay media

by Don Romesburg, GLAAD San Francisco Media Resource Center Manager

Like never before, lesbian and gay media's mastheads routinely overflow with the names of some of the most professional and well-respected journalists in the U.S. In the highest standards, our media covers breaking news, issues, and features that matter, and treat them with dignity and respect. Time and again, it is our community's media that break stories long before mainstream news outlets know they exist. Moreover, our media now help frame many of our issues for the mainstream media.

GLAAD has been and remains committed to lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender media and appreciates the role of community media in promoting fair, accurate, and inclusive representation as a means of challenging all forms of discrimination based on sexual orientation or identity. Both on a local and national level, GLAAD assists such media outlets as *In the Life*, *1 in 10*, *Lesbigay Radio*, *LGNY* and the *Advocate* to bring the most current and up-to-date information to the widest possible audiences. GLAAD provides information to a number of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender newswires and Internet services to highlight breaking news to both community and mainstream media.

In San Francisco, GLAAD continues to have a strong local presence with active monitoring and challenging of Hate Radio. Our annual video project *Seen Anything Good Lately?*, which will be distributed nationally this year as part of an educational program, utilizes local activists, entertainers, videographers, editors and producers to

create a review of both local and national television representation. As local media incidents arise, GLAAD's San Francisco Media Resource Center continues to respond quickly and effectively.

In addition, GLAADAlert, our weekly activation tool, is produced locally with assistance from GLAAD offices nationwide and distributed to over 7,000 people via the Internet each Friday, and we're also proud that it appears in a number of community newspapers around the country. From offices in San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, and Washington, DC, with Kansas City and Atlanta coming on board in 1997, GLAAD has been able to pool resources, streamline efforts, and retain both grassroots and national strength.

GLAAD has struggled to create a GLAAD Media

Award nominations process geared toward recognizing the best our community's media has to offer. In our desire to dismantle the barriers that continue to keep our media ghettoized, GLAAD began to include community-based submissions alongside mainstream ones, enabling lesbian and gay media to compete directly with their mainstream counterparts. This year, the Los Angeles Lesbian and Gay Center's public service campaign netted a nomination in Advertising, *It's Elementary* is the single nominee for Outstanding Documentary, and in the Interactive Media category, PlanetOUT, Hangin' Out and Out magazine's OUT.COM make up three of five nominees.

The volunteer GLAAD Media Awards Nominations Committees, comprised of professionals in various media-related fields, measure not only the quality of work submitted, they also gauge the impact of the

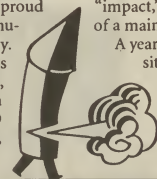
work of its audience. This pits smaller circulation lesbian and gay media against mainstream consumer publications with readerships far outnumbering those of community media. The large and diverse audiences of top-selling mainstream publications benefit greatly from gay- and lesbian-oriented stories to which they may otherwise never be exposed. The work's "impact," then, may tip the scales in favor of a mainstream media entry.

A year ago, GLAAD recognized a similar situation developing in our film category, and worked swiftly to address it. Without the benefit of huge budgets, big distribution, and major stars, critically acclaimed "indies" flickered on far fewer screens than did major Hollywood blockbusters. As a result, they were sometimes

overlooked. In 1996, we expanded our film category and now have one for films in wide release and one for limited release. This year, that means outstanding films like *Beautiful Thing* did not compete with smash hits like *Flirting With Disaster*. Now all films that portray our community fairly, accurately, and inclusively get Media Award attention.

Currently, we are in the process of designing a new method for honoring our community's media, and we welcome input from lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender media. Following this year's Awards, we will solicit submissions from our community's media. We will also make sure that they are not subjected to unbalanced competition from larger circulation mainstream publications. By the 1998 GLAAD Media Awards, the lesbian and gay media will play a more prominent role and will receive the attention that we all agree is their just reward. ▼

Guest Opinion



LETTERS

Sex regulations: against 'em

It has become clear that a large segment of the San Francisco gay men's community is not pleased with the proposed sex club standards being promulgated by the San Francisco Department of Health AIDS Office. These proposed standards, in particular the ban on private spaces in gay sex establishments, has no basis in science. In fact, Dr. Katz of the SFDPH AIDS Office admits there is no empirical data measuring the differences in patron sexual behaviors at sex clubs, as opposed to bathhouses or spaces with locked cubicles.

In spite of the outrage of a large segment of the gay men's community over the SFDPH AIDS Office's proposed standards, and in spite of a complete lack of evidence that a ban on private spaces in sex establishments is effective from an HIV transmission standpoint, Dr. Katz and his office still seem determined to impose these draconian restrictions on the sex lives of San Francisco's gay men without any community input whatsoever.

The SFDPH AIDS Office justifies their sex club standards by stating that they were developed in collaboration with the Coalition for Healthy Sex. Lest there be any confusion, the CHS does not represent the community. It only represents a few sex club owners and a few AIDS educators who do not necessarily represent the mainstream of HIV education.

In essence, what Dr. Katz, his office, and the CHS are saying to the gay men of San Francisco is that we are too stupid to absorb sound HIV education and safer sex practice information and utilize it properly. Therefore, they're going to limit our sexual freedoms. And they're not even going to consult us in the process.

This is the height of governmental arrogance. When bathhouses closed in the early 80s there was little known about HIV or its transmission. We now know a great deal. And we know bathhouses don't cause HIV transmission. By putting all this time and money into the restricting of San Francisco gay men's sex lives, the SFDPH AIDS Office is wasting valuable resources that should be targeted at prevention education, not codifying a "sex police" arm of our city's government.

Take notice, men. The city is about to make law a restriction on your sex life. You should be insulted and angry.

Mike Pierce
San Francisco

Sex regulations: Forum

There has been a great deal of discussion recently in this paper and the community at large about the attempt to legislate gay sex at sex clubs and whether bathhouses should be allowed to re-open in San Francisco. Accusations of "sex police" and homophobia are again threatening to divide our community as the debate about closing the bathhouses did at the beginning of the AIDS epidemic.

Before any decisions are made, there are many questions that we need to answer or, at the very least, discuss: Are men more likely to fuck without a condom at a bathhouse or a sex club? (FYI: The main difference between bathhouses and sex clubs is that bathhouses have private rooms). Can sex clubs and bathhouses be effective places to do health education? Even with monitors, how can sex clubs ensure that everyone will have safe sex? What about private rooms in bathhouses—do they give more opportunities for HIV to be spread?

Amid all of the controversy lies a basic question: whose responsibility is safe sex? The Department of Public Health? The sex club and bathhouse owners? Yours? Mine? What is our responsibility to each other in ending the epidemic? And in keeping our community sex-positive?

The Stop AIDS Project will hold a community forum to talk about these important questions. The forum will feature a panel sex activists, public health educators, and community members including former porn star Scott O'Hara and sexologist Carol Queen, as well as representatives from the Coalition for Healthy Sex and Community United for Sexual Privacy. It will give gay and bisexual men an opportunity to talk with each other about different views on who is responsible for safe sex in sex clubs and bathhouses.

The forum will be held Saturday, February 22 from 2-4:30 p.m. in the Social Hall of the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street in the Castro. It is free and open to all.

For more information, please call us at (415) 621-7177 x. 258.

Matt Denckla
Steven Gibson
Jerry Turner
Stop AIDS Project

[Editor's note: The question is, will the forum make the SFDPH give a damn what the community wants?]

Swollen with pride

I have just read of another political activist trying to speak for the masses. Concerning national coming out day ["Could a nationwide strike help end homophobia?" B.A.R. January 16]. Please don't expect me to take the day off from work as a showing of the power the gay community has. Our place in the workforce is way too important for that, and we are still fighting for our right to be there, in many companies. Speaking for myself, I would rather be in my office, doing the best job that I can do, and if I can educate one more person who has shown me an example of ignorance in the workplace, then my job as an out employee shines the more.

Luckily for me, at GES Exposition Services, I happen to work with a wonderful group of folks who celebrate cultural diversity to the fullest. Slander or defamation of any kind is not tolerated, and I don't believe that I am referred to as a gay employee, but as an employee who happens to be gay.

No, I will not call in sick on National Coming Out Day, I will show up for the job I was hired to do, and maybe even work a little harder than usual, as I will be swollen with pride to be a member of the workforce regardless of my sexual preference.

Make your own decision as to how you would like to celebrate National Coming Out Day. Look in your own soul and ask yourself where it would be more important to spend that day. I know I will be spending my hard-earned dollars at a gay-owned business after work, maybe even volunteering my time to an organization in need. But my final thought is that every day is National Coming Out Day...treat it that way and work hard towards liberation of all men and women in the workplace and out, and celebrate peace, love, and equality for all.

Randy Morrison
San Francisco

Draconian cuts

In early January, Governor Wilson announced that he plans to increase AIDS funding. He also announced the next step in his war on welfare.

It appears to be part of a cynical manipulation of people's lives to advance his own political career. Pete Wilson is running early and running hard for the Republican presidential nomination in 2000. By attacking immigration, welfare, and affirmative action, he's banking on the ever-rightward drift of U.S. voters.

Whether we support Wilson's AIDS budget or end up fighting it once the details are made public, we shouldn't ignore the draconian cuts Wilson is calling for in welfare. It would be disingenuous to argue they have nothing to do with the queer community, particularly those of us who are HIV+ or have AIDS. In an era of shrinking budgets, we all know that increased funding in one area leads inevitably to cutting in another. And while we may be reluctant to acknowledge it, we share at least some of the day-to-day uncertainties forced upon people who have to rely on welfare for survival.

It's not hard to understand the impact welfare cuts will have on people's lives. Many of us already live on some form of assistance—SSI, disability, cashed-in life insurance policies. We get our medications from ADAP or an insurance company that's working overtime to figure out how to drop our coverage. Those of us lucky enough not to rely on these programs can probably think of friends who do. And how many more friends have had to sell off everything and move into a Tenderloin residence hotel as they became sick-er?

Imagine having to move yet again—only this time, the street is the only place left to go.

Most of us don't think our disability checks qualify as being on welfare. But it's an arbitrary distinction that only serves to separate us from other people. Our experiences may differ in significant ways, but we can't afford to continue thinking, "That's them, not us."

And we can't fool ourselves into thinking it won't happen to us. We already know people with AIDS who are being pushed off Social Security, because their initial eligibility was based in part on substance abuse. It's not inconceivable that headlines may soon read: "Wilson slashes ADAP funds" or "Social Security Drops AIDS as Qualifying Disability."

Anything we can do to help defeat welfare cuts will be worth it. It won't derail our fight against AIDS. It's all connected anyway. Whether we see that connection as a simple affirmation of what it means to be human and caring, or if we understand the connection to be a more pragmatic issue of building coalitions and strengthening our position for battles likely to face us more directly in the future.

AIDS is an important focus for us, but we need to remember that other lives are also on the line. We should be standing on the same side of that line with welfare mothers and with immigrants. Not off to the side. And certainly not on the other side.

Arawn Eibhlyn
San Francisco

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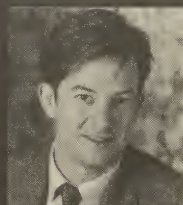
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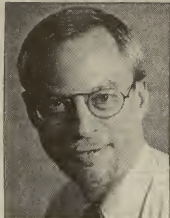


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Chrysler dealership response falls short

I am responding to a letter to the editor from Clark Bufkin and John Nettleton of the December 26, 1996 issue of the B.A.R. My apologies for the belated response, but as I live in Michigan it took some time for the letter to come to my attention. Mr. Bufkin and Mr. Nettleton state that they "have been dealt with fairly by Chrysler." All should know that this is not the case for the rest of Chrysler's gay/lesbian/bi/trans (GLBT) employees by any stretch of the imagination.

Working for Chrysler in the factories and offices is a living hell if you are even rumored to be a sexual minority. Most all hide in fear and make up stories, as it is common knowledge that you will have a tormented life if you are found out. When I asked for the inclusion of sexual orientation in non-discrimination policies in Jan./Feb. of 1992, the Chrysler representative literally chuckled. I have sent five certified letters to Chrysler CEO Robert Eaton since August of 1994 begging for such a policy. A letter-writing campaign has caused thousands of letters to be sent asking for the change. All to no avail.

After I won an election as delegate to the 1996 Bargaining Convention for the new contracts, my speech appealed for a contractual inclusion of "sexual orientation" with Chrysler. This passed unanimously, however Chrysler steadfastly refused to add these two words even though they would literally have not cost one penny.

When General Motors agreed to give domestic partnership benefits to their employees in Canada, Chrysler refused to do the same. Canadian Auto Workers President Buzz Hargrove stated that Chrysler's "macho" executives refused. (Mr. Hargrove's words Oct. 23, 1996 *Los Angeles Times*).

The days before our National Day of Protest at Chrysler Dealerships on Nov. 14, 1996, Chrysler CEO Eaton came out with an "internal" memo which said that even though they would not put "sexual orientation" in a diversity statement, that it still did mean to include us. This is a joke and totally inadequate. Especially in light of the fact that weeks later on Dec. 2, 1996, when a contract employee went to the Diversity Department requesting help in dealing with anti-gay harassment, the very next day his area manager told him that the Friday after next would be his last day, as he was no longer needed. This situation is absolutely intolerable.

Mr. Bufkin and Mr. Nettleton ask that customers come to them to buy Chryslers, and then write on a questionnaire that they are a GLBT person. This may be a nice gesture, but how the heck do they think that this is going to do the job when they have already ignored thousands of letters and refused a demand of the United Auto Workers Union to finally treat us with equal respect and dignity?

These two dealers do not seem to comprehend how meaningless it is for those of us in the factories and offices who suffer when they say how well they are treated. Think about it, of course they are well treated as high volume dealers in San Francisco, what good does that do us who suffer who are not in the gay Mecca of the world such as San Francisco?

They finish by saying, "buy from us and watch your dollars bring change." How ludicrous; GLBT persons have been buying Chryslers since day one. What good has this done? I think a more appropriate and effective strategy at this point, after Chrysler's nasty rebuff/denial of our dignity as human beings is to "informational picket" all Chrysler dealerships until Chrysler accepts our humble demands to enter into a "memorandum of understanding" with the UAW adding just two words: "sexual orientation." Also that they implement diversity training. Is this too much to ask in 1997?

We are truly thrilled that San Francisco is forcing all companies doing business with your great city to offer domestic partnership benefits. Could we in the Midwest please have some assistance in getting even basic human rights in our workplace?

For extensive and detailed documentation as to how we are being treated by Chrysler please e-mail me for the web site address at: MichRook@aol.com

Ron G. Woods

Chair, Campaign For Equal Rights At Chrysler

Tabloid Journalism

I am proud to be one of the 26% of whites who know that OJ Simpson is innocent, because I bothered to investigate the facts and found that the murders of Nicole Brown and Ronald Goldman are drug murders. I am horrified at the racist, tabloid journalism of the entire press and other media, all of which claim to be "respectable," to the extent that they promote their lurid lies during the time of the President's State of the Union message, and subject all of us to their screaming, racist headlines and contrived editorials in lieu of news and legal analysis.

We women do not need tabloid journalism; we need serious, investigative reporting, as was done by Donald Freed and Raymond Briggs in their book, *Killing Time*.

Lee Heller
San Francisco

Working with SFAF

I have been following the controversy with the SF AIDS Foundation and ACT UP/SF for several months now. I find the actions of ACT UP/SF insulting and degrading to SFAF and the community at large.

I have been a volunteer with SF AIDS Foundation Hotline for over four years. I have been HIV-positive for more than eight years. When I learned of my status, like many people, I went into denial. At the time I was living in a small town in the Central Valley. When I finally decided to learn more about HIV/AIDS and start taking care of myself, SF AIDS Foundation and Project Inform were there to help me. I took the information from PI and with the help of a volunteer on the SFAF Hotline learned what I could do, what my options were, and received support with coming out about being gay and HIV-positive.

I moved to San Francisco six years ago and immediately started volunteering with SFAF. It has become one of the most wonderful and important parts of my life. I look forward to the time I spend at the Foundation. The staff and volunteers are loving, caring and beautiful people. They are dedicated to ending the pandemic and providing the best possible service to people living in San Francisco.

I will be the first to admit that I don't always agree with everything that the SFAF does, and I am active in discussing my issues with the appropriate person at SFAF. I have found that the staff is willing to actively listen to my complaints and compliments, discuss the issues at hand, and make improvements or changes whenever possible. Most importantly, I feel that my ideas and input are encouraged and supported.

I find the divisiveness between two important groups to our community insulting. We need to work with, not against each other. ACT UP has done some wonderful work over the past years, condoming houses, flying banners from governor's mansions, invading Wall Street, and converging on Houses and Senates at different capitals around the U.S. SF AIDS Foundation has done some incredible work as well, providing a hotline for Northern California, revolutionizing education and outreach practices, and providing multi-dimensional support to people living with HIV/AIDS.

Again, let's find a way to work together, not at odds, with each other.

Russell Brent
San Francisco

ACT UP/SF women respond

Re: Fat Cat Pat picture is misogyny (letters to B.A.R., 1/30/97). ACT UP/San Francisco has criticized several people with similar fliers and stickers, including Donald Abrams, Martin Delaney, Dan Lungren, Jesse Helms and Pete Wilson. But because she happens to be a woman, it is misogyny to criticize Pat Christen, who makes over \$130,000 a year as Executive Director of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation?

Pat Christen has pushed AZT for pregnant HIV-positive women, paying little regard to the toxic side effects and birth defects it causes for many women and their children. As for employees of the SFAF, most women and people of color are at the bottom of the wage scale. As Executive Director, Pat Christen is responsible for perpetuating this institutionalized sexism and racism.

Pat Christen was in charge of the worldwide search committee for Executive Director and nominated herself for the job. Since she has become Executive Director of the SFAF, her salary has tripled. She has supported early intervention with high doses of toxic AZT and has accepted pharmaceutical industry money. In a 1990 interview with the B.A.R. ("AZT Maker Planning Ad Blitz," 3/22/90), while activists like Paul Boneberg, co-chair of Mobilization Against AIDS, were saying, "Burroughs-Wellcome is the lowest of the lowest. They're really profiteering scumbags," Pat Christen was saying, "We have problems with what they've done with the price of AZT. But it's an interesting question. If you believe that getting the information out is important, is it okay that Burroughs-Wellcome pays for that message?"

In Pat Christen's years as Executive Director of the SFAF, we've seen acceptance of pharmaceutical industry money, opposition to medicinal marijuana, institutionalized racism and sexism, union-busting, pay increases for top management, and a tripling in her own salary. It is clear that the SFAF's motive has turned from benefiting the HIV-positive to profit and greed. No matter what her gender, Pat Christen must be held accountable for the "monster" she has helped create. Dump Fat Cat Pat!

Mary Menos
for the Women of ACT UP/San Francisco

[Editor's note: More than a dozen women were listed as being in support of the above.]

Send short, signed letters to the Bay Area Reporter, 395 Ninth Street, San Francisco CA 94103. Don't even think about faxing them.

POLITICS

Boxer brief

by Wayne Friday

A poll conducted for the *San Francisco Examiner* by the Mason-Dixon

Political/Media Research group earlier this month gives **Barbara Boxer** reason to be encouraged as California's junior U. S. senator's '98 re-election campaign gets underway. While the poll of 811 registered voters (party affiliation was not asked) shows Boxer's re-election support at only 44% (any number less than 50% usually means vulnerability for an incumbent), the good news for the first-term senator is that the same poll currently shows her defeating all of her potential Republican opponents by comfortable double-digits.

As for Boxer's actual job performance rating, it now breaks down something like 46% favorable, 33% unfavorable, and the remaining with a neutral impression. The recent poll matched Boxer with her most likely GOP opponents and found that state treasurer

Matt Fong is the best-known of the possible Republicans and the one with the best chance of ousting her next year. Fong has an impressive name identification with California voters of 65%, while San Diego Mayor **Susan Golding**, also a likely candidate, is



Barbara Boxer

known by 43% of the state's voters. Indeed, if the Republican senate primary were held this week, Fong would likely win with 22%, Golding with 17%, and Representatives **David Drier** of Covina and **Chris Cox** of Orange County (both often mentioned as possible candidates) with 5% and 4% respectively, showing the GOP primary to be up for grabs, particularly in light of the still-undecided Republican vote.

While Senator Boxer is in better political shape going into next year's election than many had previously thought, early feelings are that she is still in for a rough re-election fight, particularly if she faces either Fong or Golding in the November '98 general election. Boxer reportedly has a current political war-chest of just over \$1 million, but Fong, the current GOP favorite, is said to have slightly more than that.

If the general election were held today, the poll shows Boxer beating Fong 47% to 32%, Golding by 49% to 29%, Rep. Drier by a whopping 50% to 26% and Rep.

Cox by a wider 51% to 25%. The good news for the Democrats in next year's California senate race is that Boxer is a tireless campaigner, has the ability to raise big bucks, and a gubernatorial race with **Dianne Feinstein** as the nominee (which Boxer is clearly hoping for) would help their ticket statewide, greatly enhancing Boxer's chances of re-election. Like all campaigns in a state as large as California, the Boxer campaign needs funding badly; early campaign donations, which the campaign is appealing for, can be sent to: Friends of Barbara Boxer, P. O. Box 641751, Los Angeles, CA 90064.

Politics & poker

Anyone who thought this Congress (or any future one, for that matter) ever seriously planned to impose term limits on themselves should have their heads examined. Sure, the incumbents talk about lofty issues like term limits, campaign finance reform, and the like, but don't hold your breath.

The House last week voted on a 12-year term limit on itself and mustered only 217 votes, 69 short of the two-thirds needed. Never mind that polls show that 70% of Americans want some kind of term limits on both the House and the Senate, or that more than that many want some kind of campaign finance regulation, it isn't going to happen – not in this Congress or the next.

Frankly, I don't like term limits; if the voters aren't smart enough to toss out unproductive officeholders, let them live with these people. (Incidentally, both Reps. **Nancy Pelosi** and **Tom Lantos** voted against limiting House terms last week.)

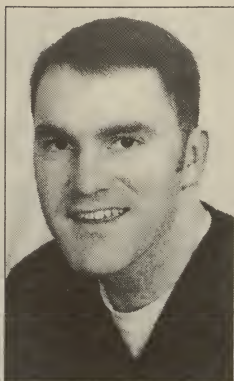
Expect House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** to keep a lower profile, and at least act as though he's co-operating with the White House on important matters this session. A recent *New York Times* poll shows only 24% of all Americans think the GOP did the right thing by keeping him in the powerful Speaker's job.

First Daughter **Chelsea Clinton** turns 17 next Thursday; those close to the President say that Ms. Clinton will enroll at Georgetown and live at the White House during her college days.

Claiming that "for too long in this freedom-loving land, cultural subversives [?] have engaged in trench warfare on traditional family values," and calling same-sex relationships "perverse," Mississippi Governor **Kirk Fordice**, a "God-fearing" right-wing, Fundamentalist Republican, last week signed a law making that state the 17th in a year to ban gay marriages. The state of Washington will be the 18th.

Sacramento Republicans are saying they expect Rep. **Sonny Bono** (R-Palm Springs) to give up a safe congressional seat next year to seek the lieutenant governor's nomination; former Demo state party chair **Phil Angelides** looks like the early favorite to be the Democratic nominee for lieutenant governor.

The Los Angeles County Demo Committee last week endorsed state senator **Tom Hayden** for mayor in that city's April 8th primary, but recent polls show Republican incumbent



Scott Furman, President of San Francisco's Log Cabin Club.

Richard Riordan leading Hayden by about 2-to-1, with nearly 20% undecided, and few give Hayden any chance of unseating the popular GOP mayor. In LA's 13th council district, incumbent lesbian Councilwoman **Jackie Goldberg** is heavily favored for re-election.

The California GOP will hold its organizational convention this weekend (Feb. 21-23) at the Sacramento Convention Center; the predominantly gay Lincoln Republican Club expects to play a prominent part. (How about asking the Guv for a couple of judicial appointments?) Gov. **Pete Wilson** and probable gubernatorial nominee **Dan Lungren** are to be the convention keynoters. Call (410) 939-3723 for info.

Speaking of gay Republicans, **Scott Furman** is the new president of Log Cabin San Francisco. **Walter Hanna** is the group's new veep.

Got to hand it to Supervisor **Susan Leal** for being so tough in her dealings with Mayor **Willie Brown** and the 49ers as chair of the Board's Finance Committee. Watch this woman – there are bigger and better things likely for her in politics.

Former supe **Tom Hsieh** set to announce for City Treasurer? Leal's name keeps coming up for that job as well.

By the way, for those who were wondering if **Gavin Newsom** was the first choice for that supe seat he just got: School Board member **Dan Kelly** reportedly turned the job down first.

Tom Stoddard, 48, the former executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund who died last week in Manhattan of AIDS-related causes, had a lot of friends here. The death toll may be down, but the epidemic isn't over yet.

The relentless toll of the epidemic – plus equal parts adoration and gratitude for **Elizabeth Taylor** – attracted everyone who is anyone to LA's Pantages Theatre Sunday night for the star's 65th birthday AIDS fundraiser. Brain tumor be damned, Ms. Taylor, America's favorite celebrity AIDS fundraiser, reportedly looked like the movie queen she is in a **Valentino** gown designed especially for the affair, and big bucks were raised to fight the disease. (I mean, is this woman the greatest, or what?)

Last, and definitely least, superstar hunk/actor **Mel Gibson**, likely one of Hollywood's best-known homophobes, reportedly met with GLAAD members to try to remake his anti-gay image. (Finding out who really runs H'wood, Mr. Gibson? Gibson reportedly didn't apologize for any of his past homophobic remarks, but his publicist said the talk was "a nice dialogue between people who have a lot in common." Such as? ▼

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JANE RHUMEN CLELAND

All hands on deck

Volunteers are needed Saturday, February 22, to help the SF Chamber of Commerce in a one-day painting project at Canon Kip's Community House at 705 Natoma Street in the South of Market area. The residence provides permanent housing for low-income San Franciscans, including people with AIDS, and residents with substance abuse, mental and emotional disabilities. If you aren't able to help out with a brush, you can contribute \$75 and sponsor a homeless person's labor on the day-long effort. For more information, contact Alison Mitchell at 487-3793.

Well, isn't that special

by Beth Elliott

This Is Just Another Peyton Place And You're All Harper Valley Hypocrites Dept.: Gee, it was so gorgeous out on the Saturday of the new moon and the Asian Lunar New Year (live long and prosper, y'all ... which I think is a closer translation of Gung Hay Fat Choy than Happy New Year) that I deprived myself of a sublime cultural moment in order to hike Mt. Tam in search of waterfalls with some cool women from the Bay Area Cyberdykes online community. By doing so, I passed up the opportunity to deepen my spiritual understanding of dating and intimacy at the Christian Singles Weekend conference in the City.

Now, the Christian Singles have done their PR homework, because they landed an article in the *Chronicle*. Perhaps it was the angle of exploring how to balance one's practice of Christianity with one's sexual desires, since the conference seems to have been targeted primarily at Christians who are single again after divorce and perhaps only secondarily at those who didn't manage to marry and start a family right out of high school or college.

The article gave the impression that discussion of this dilemma would go beyond what we would imagine the correct Christian line on non-marital sex to be, which is to say, "Just say no!" It wasn't difficult to read this between the lines. The accompanying pie charts were something of a dead giveaway. They broke down by denomination grouping (Catholic, mainstream Protestant, fundamentalist, evangelical), and by gender, beliefs as to whether rounding third and heading for home was morally okay for the Christian proverbial brown-eyed handsome man.

But let's face it—whose going to shell out good money to hear what they could hear in any church on any Sunday for a few bucks in the collection plate: no lovey-dovey till I get me a wedding ring? (We're kind of going AOR on the popular song references this week, aren't we—as in, all over the road.)

So this brings up a number of

interesting questions, which you probably see coming. Seeing as how use of the label "Christian" usually suggests conservative Protestant, what's there to say about non-marital sex at a Christian singles conference but "Just say no"—even if one has been previously married and used to getting one's Christian ashes hauled on a regular basis?

And aren't we talking about people who otherwise take very seriously the Christian dogma that sex is for marriage and marriage only? And that the only acceptable form of marriage is one man to one woman? And that it's so important for the divine scheme of things to uphold this format that laws must be passed in a secular society to legitimize only that format? And that it's so desperately critical to social well-being that marriage of one woman to one man must be outlawed despite that format's tacit recognition of monogamy as an ideal?

Why, yes, as a matter of fact, we are. We are indeed talking about these same people turning around and trying to find a way to fudge on their own beliefs, the beliefs they believe must be imposed on non-believers with the power and force of government, just so they can keep getting laid. Well ... I guess some people hold to their own values regarding sexual morality only when it's convenient!

Nor surprisingly, my imagination ran amok as I read the article over my morning coffee. I imagined the prayer circles: "Our Father, who art in heaven ... I got needs!" So they're all, like, praying for acceptance of their hominess and God up in heavens all, like, "Give us this day our daily what?" And I'm all, could that be something that rhymes with breads? (I've got to get off this topic. This is far, far too easy.)

Well, that same weekend there was something else in the paper to wonder about. Pat Holt's Sunday book section included a review calling Leslie J. Reagan's *When Abortion Was a Crime* (University of California Press) "a model of

social history supported by a spectacular wealth of documentary evidence." It sounds like a truly excellent book, one that tells us a lot more women in the pre-Roe v. Wade days took control of their own reproductive destiny than we've been brought up to believe.

Nonetheless, reviewer Rickie Solinger made a statement in her last paragraph that kind of threw me: that the book "probably overestimates the numbers of women who relied on physicians—many turned to naturopaths and chiropractors as well as to midwives." Okay, midwives I can see. Naturopaths? Well, maybe herbalists prescribing abortifacients like pennyroyal. But chiropractors? Hello?

Since I'm doubting a woman who is herself an author on the subject, perhaps I'm jumping to a conclusion when I wonder if the raising of this question concerned political correctness more than historical accuracy. I mean, while I do have some small familiarity with alternative medicine ... chiropractors? What kind of spinal adjustment could one do for an unwanted pregnancy shy of tying someone up like a pretzel? I just can't imagine any non-herbal, non-surgical instrument procedure that would do the job. I do know, however, that if there is one, it would certainly live up to those group tai chi sessions in the Panhandle.

Just Blame It On Caen Dept.: The rescheduling of the candlelight march along Herb Caen Way ... precluded my taking part, alas. Even if that big astrological alignment turns out to be as big of a bust as the Harmonic Convergence (give the points and put your money on bust), recent events have The End of an Era written all over them. Not only have we lost San Francisco institution Herb Caen (and publisher Carleton Goodlett), there was also the passing of Richard Berry. You know, composer of the immortal "Louie, Louie." Like Herb Caen, someone who set a tone in a small but significant way, offering a light but perhaps essential attitude adjustment. Sigh ... ▼



Sapphistication

MEDIA ALERT

Does Ellen have a date?

by Al Kielwasser

Various industry sources are reporting that ABC's *Ellen* might be coming out at last, and on a — nearly — certain date: April 30. Significantly, this slot coincides with the vital May sweeps, during which key network ratings are measured. According to the *Hollywood Reporter* (Feb. 14), only one hitch remains: "The final thumbs-up on Ellen's outing depends on ABC and Disney execs approving a script, which has not yet been submitted."

Contact: Jamie Tarses, President, ABC Entertainment, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067, fax 310-557-7679, e-mail abcaudr@ccabc.com; David Neuman, President, Walt Disney Television, 500 South Buena Vista, Burbank, CA 91521, <http://www.txplex.com/Note>.

Polluted airwaves

Kevin Jennings — director of the Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network (GLSTN) — recently appeared at a junior college in Modesto, California. Unfortunately, the event was hailed by local broadcasters with less-than-broad minds.

During their January 17 show, KFIV's morning DJs Rick Minyard "and his sidekick Tom" ridiculed GLSTN and Jennings. According to one listener, the radio hosts "intimated that the GLSTN Executive Director was less than a man, saying 'their man, or boy or whatever he is, Kevin Jennings will be here... that's so special... isn't that special' (imitating Dana Carvey's Church Lady character from *Saturday Night Live*). The same DJs have been a source of both racist and homophobic "humor" in the past.

With more than 40 chapters — and a membership of over 4,000 teachers, parents, and concerned citizens — GLSTN is the largest national organization dedicated to combating homophobia in classrooms and curricula. Members work to insure that "schools are places where all people are respected and valued, regardless of sexual orientation."

Contact: KFIV Newstalk 1360-AM, 3600 Sisk Road, Modesto CA, tel. 209-545-5585; Gay, Lesbian and Straight Teachers Network, 122 W. 26th Street, Ste. 1100, New York, NY 10001-6804, tel. 212-727-0135, fax 212-727-0135, e-mail glstn@glstn.org, web site <http://www.glstn.org/>.

Indecent proposition

The Student Press Law Center (SPLC) is currently preparing an amicus brief to the U.S. Supreme Court regarding the Communications Decency [sic] Act. As part of that process, says SPLC staff attorney Mike Hiestand, "we are looking to cite material on the Internet that — though newsworthy — might be considered 'indecent' or 'patently offensive' and thus subject to prosecution under the law" (for example, safe sex articles). Hiestand is primarily seeking "material published by mainstream student or commercial news organizations," and interested individuals are asked to forward appropriate articles to SPLC as soon as possible.

Contact: Student Press Law Center, 1101 Wilson Blvd., Suite 1910 Arlington, VA 22209-2248, tel. 703-807-1904, e-mail splc@splc.org, web site <http://www.splc.org>.



Ellen DeGeneres

Reel women

WiseGirl Productions has launched the "MadCat Women's Film and Video Festival" — a non-competitive, international venue for "the promotion and exhibition of innovative works by a diverse group of women." The festival premieres March 21-23 in San Francisco, with a program that highlights "up-and-coming women film and video artists and honors the women that have come before them." "This festival emphasizes work that generates discussion and challenges the audience to reexamine film and the role women play in its creations," says event director Holen Kahn. "Until there is equal representation of women in both the film industry and the art world, festivals such as MadCat are necessary."

Contact: Holen Kahn and Ariell J. Ben-Dov, Directors, The MadCat Women's Film Festival, WiseGirl Productions, 937 Fell Street, San Francisco, CA 94117, tel. 415-826-6017 or 415-436-9523.

Back 'Spin'?

Since its fall debut, *Spin City* has made a singular effort at inclusion and diversity. Indeed, this ABC sitcom is currently the only primetime series to feature an African-American gay character

in a recurring role.

For at least one reviewer, however, *Spin City* could do even better. Of the show's February 11 plot, *USA Today* critic Matt Roush wrote: "In a Valentine's episode of romantic misadventure, Mike (Michael J. Fox) is enlisted to masquerade as Carter's (Michael Boatman) lover when Carter's ex (Luke Perry) shows up with a fiancée. Mike's panic at playing gay is below this show's dignity. It would have been fresher if he'd willingly gone along with the joke only to learn (to his dismay) he was lousy at it."

Whatever the other faults or merits of this critique, Roush does what very few mainstream critics have ever done: recognize heterosexism as a critical concern. Given the diminished expectations that homophobia encourages, his review is also an admirable reminder. Always expect the media's best, or it's the least they can do.

Contact: Matt Roush, Critic, and David Mazzarella, Editor, *USA Today*, 1000 Wilson Blvd., Arlington,

VA 22229, fax 703-247-3290, e-mail editor@usatoday.com; Jamie Tarses, Entertainment President, ABC, 2040 Avenue of the Stars, Los Angeles, CA 90067, fax 310-557-7679, e-mail abcaudr@ccabc.com.

Al Kielwasser is the editor of *Gay People, Sex and the Media*. "MEDIAlert!" is a biweekly, advocacy-oriented column of media criticism, primarily focused on lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender issues, distributed as a community press service since 1992. Contact: A. P. Kielwasser, MEDIAction, 163 Park Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-5835, voice-mail 415-826-5203, fax 415-826-5203, e-mail mediaction@aol.com.



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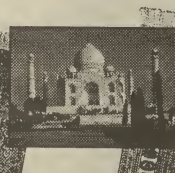
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31 years ago:

Gays went through their NACHO phase

by David Bianco

This week in gay history: The first National Planning Conference of Homophile Organizations meets in Kansas City, February 18, 1966.

In the mid-1960s, gay and lesbian activists for the first time initiated a broad effort to coordinate and unite the activities of America's several dozen homophile organizations by creating the North American Conference of Homophile Organizations, or NACHO (rhymes with Waco, not macho).

In 1963, lesbian and gay groups in New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC had begun meeting together and planning joint activities under the umbrella of East Coast Homophile Organizations (ECHO). The many protests and public demonstrations led by activists such as Frank Kameny and Craig Rodwell gave ECHO a "militant" reputation that attracted the attention of gays and lesbians across the country, many of whom felt isolated in their organizing, and saw ECHO as a model for a national, united organization.

On the weekend of February 18, 1966, 40 delegates met in Kansas City for the first National Planning Conference of Ho-

mophile Organizations. Mostly in their twenties and thirties, those in attendance represented 14 lesbian and gay organizations from different parts of the United States. Ironically, none of them were in Kansas City - the site of the conference was chosen for its central location, not to take advantage of the hospitality of any local organization. But the conference's presence in Kansas City inspired local activists, and within a month the "Phoenix Society for Individual Freedom" was born.

At the Kansas City conference, the decision whether to form a national organization was postponed until the next meeting, scheduled for San Francisco six months later. But those assembled did establish a national legal defense fund, begin plans for a series of nationwide protests in May 1966 against discrimination in the military, and start a newsletter to keep each group informed of the activities of the others.

Internal conflicts

At the San Francisco conference, dubbed "Ten Days in August," NACHO was formed. During the four years of its existence, it helped start local organizations in dozens of cities, held an annual summer conference, and wrote studies and position papers on issues of concern to gays and lesbians nationwide. The legal defense fund financed court cases to challenge anti-gay discrimination in immigration, liquor, and military policy.

Still, some activists faulted the organization for having no real authority over its member organizations, run as more of a "United Nations" of gay groups than an actual union of them. Also, many lesbians felt their issues and needs were rarely addressed by the

NACHO's male-dominated political structure.

At the 1967 NACHO conference in Washington, DC, the strains of uniting an extremely diverse movement continued to pose problems. Important homophile groups such as New York Mattachine and ONE in Los Angeles refused to attend for a variety of procedural and substantive squabbles.

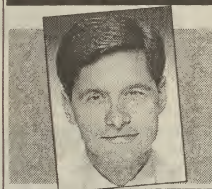
Particularly at issue was the question of "credentials," the right to vote and be considered an official organization at the conference. Some East Coast members wanted to be very strict about letting questionable organizations participate, out of fear of infiltration by extreme left-wing activists. Others, particularly from California, felt that any organization or individual who wished to participate should be welcome.

NACHO's 1968 conference in Chicago was particularly notable, given that it took place just weeks before the stormy protests outside that year's Democratic Convention in the same city. Even though Stonewall was more than a year away, the 1968 conference was noticeably militant, adopting as the NACHO slogan "Gay is Good," and pronouncing a five-point "Homosexual Bill of Rights." The new slogan (which elicited protests from more traditional NACHO affiliates) was consciously patterned after the black nationalist credo "Black is Beautiful" - a reflection of the increasing influence of civil rights activism on the homophile movement.

Still, the organization was wracked by internal dissent, and many lesbians who had earlier been willing to put up with NACHO's male-oriented structure refused to participate after

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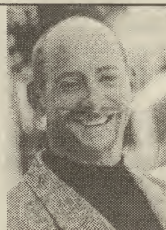
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STEVEN LINDERHILL

From plumbing to politics

E. Bay gays honoring their own - 11 to receive Trailblazer Awards

by Cynthia Laird

A lesbian plumber, a grassroots organizer, and an advocate for the discussion of queer issues in public schools are just three of the 11 openly gay East Bay residents who will be honored Saturday, March 1 at the first Trailblazer Awards banquet in Oakland. One other honoree is not gay, but has made significant contributions to the community, organizers said.

A festive, elegant evening is planned, said Brendalynn Goodall, the driving force behind the event, a collaboration of AMASSI, Inc., the East Bay Lesbian/Gay Democratic Club (EBL/GDC), and the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund. The public is invited to attend what Goodall called an "historic occasion."

Sabrina Sojourner, currently the only African-American lesbian elected official in the country, will also be speaking at the dinner. Sojourner is a "shadow" representative in Congress for Washington DC, and a former aide to Congresswoman Maxine Waters, D-Los Angeles.

"It was difficult to select the people, but we had certain criteria," Goodall told the B.A.R. "They had to be in the East Bay and make a contribution in the East Bay."

"We received about 25 nominations and selected 12."

The award winners represent the diversity that characterizes the East Bay queer community. Goodall said that ten different areas of achievement are represented by the recipients. As committee chair for the event, Goodall said she was pleased with the response from people who sent in nominations.

"The Trailblazer Awards were founded as a means to celebrate lesbians and gays in the East Bay who have made significant contributions to the community, as well as individuals who support and advocate for gay and lesbian civil rights," Goodall said.

Dramatis personæ

The keynote speaker for the evening will be Dr. Elias Farajaje-Jones, professor of cultural studies at the Starr King School of the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley. Farajaje-Jones was recently named as a member of the Ecumenical Association of Third World Theologians. He is the only out queer in the association and the first to be so honored.

Live music will be provided by Gwen Avery and Alberta Jackson, added Goodall.

East Bay political leaders are also expected to attend, including state Senator Barbara Lee, D-Oakland, and Mayor Elihu Harris.

In alphabetical order, the award recipients are:

- Denise Beirnes, of Oakland, for arts and culture. Beirnes was instrumental in setting up a women's studies class at the private Mills College and sponsored the first gay and lesbian exhibit at

the University of California, Berkeley.

- Sister Sharon Marie Casey, of Oakland, for spirituality. Casey, who is not lesbian, helped create and served on the lesbian, gay, and transgender task force at the private Holy Names College.

- Dottie Fowler, of Berkeley, for elder services. Fowler has been active in the queer community for many years and was on the steering committee that formed Gay and Lesbian Outreach to Elders (GLOE). She's also a founding member of the Lavender Seniors.

- Eric Hsu, of Oakland, for political work. Hsu served on the board of the EBL/GDC for about 14 years and worked effectively behind the scenes for many club projects, including a domestic partner registry in Berkeley in 1984, before San Francisco implemented a similar registry.

- Stephen Johnson, of Oakland, for work in the media. Johnson is the publisher and editor of *Whazup!*, a newspaper he started last year that focuses on the African-American gay community.

- Valerie Papaya-Mann, of Oakland, in business. Papaya-Mann has served as executive director of the AIDS Project of the East Bay since 1993. The agency has an annual budget of \$2 million and serves more than 25,000 people annually.

- Luis Orozco, of Washington D.C., for political work. Orozco was born and raised in the East Bay. Currently, he serves as a legislative aide to Congressman Ron Dellums, D-Berkeley.

- Grant Peterson, of Hayward, in youth and education. Peterson is active in BANGLE, a group of queer educators, as well as Gays and Lesbians Organized for Betterment and Equality (GLOBE), a southern Alameda County organization. GLOBE has been a big

supporter of Lambda Youth Group's Gay Prom events.

- Dr. Robert Scott, of Oakland, for healthcare. For the last 15 years, Scott has cared for people who have AIDS in Alameda County. He estimates that he sees 250 patients who have HIV/AIDS. He also serves on the board of Project Open Hand.

- Lisbeth Tellefsen, of Berkeley, for media work. Tellefsen founded *Ache*, a lesbian literary publication, in the 1980s. The newspaper features poetry and work by African-American lesbians.

- Kathy Teller, of Alameda, for community service. In 1995, when the island city was awash in controversy over a gay pride proclamation, Teller was one of the early organizers of a group that has since become Out on the Island (OOTI), which has become very active in local politics as well as social events. At those initial city council meetings, it was often Teller who would first address the board.

- Myra Williams, of Oakland, in the trades. Williams is the first African-American lesbian to have started her own plumbing business.

Goodall said there will be an opportunity for people to meet the honorees at the event, as East Bay gays and lesbians gather for an evening celebrating their uniqueness. ▽

Tickets for the Trailblazer Awards are \$50 per person and can be purchased at AMASSI, Inc., located at 351 Fifteenth Street in Oakland. The event starts at 6 p.m. at the Clarion Suites Lake Merritt Hotel, at 1800 Madison Street in downtown Oakland. For more information, call Brendalynn Goodall at (510) 533-3842.

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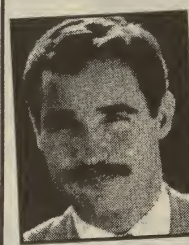
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Geyer indicted for SF blazes

by Dennis Conkin

Alleged fire-starter Darryl Geyer was indicted by the San Francisco Grand Jury last week on more than 13 counts, including arson and murder charges, stemming from a series of arson fires set around the city last year.

Geyer, a 19-year-old Ohio na-



Alleged firebug Darryl Geyer

tive described by District Attorney investigators as "a drifter," was arrested last June, following an intensive stakeout by law enforcement authorities. Although officials declined to say that Geyer is gay, Dan Addario, head of the District Attorney's criminal investigation branch, described the youth as "a hustler" who sought refuge with gay men in San Francisco and the Russian River area.

Geyer confessed to setting a July 1996 Nob Hill fire that killed a woman after she jumped from a

window to her death in a failed effort to escape injury in the blaze. He later took investigators on a tour of other fire sites.

Geyer remains at the Hall of Justice pending a March 18 Superior Court hearing for the setting of a trial date.

Although the woman's death could be charged as a special circumstances homicide, District Attorney Terence Hallinan will not seek the death penalty in the case, according to spokesman John Shanley. ▼

'Don't Ask' upheld again

by Bob Roehr

The legal challenge to the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" ban on gays serving open-

ing in the military was stymied once again with the latest decision in the case of *Philips v. Perry*. A three-member appeals panel of the Ninth Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals, sitting in Seattle, Washington, upheld the ban in a 2-1 split vote on Friday, February 14.

Navy Petty Officer Mark Philips said that he was gay and had engaged in sexual relations with non-military men while off base, on his own time. He thus raised the "conduct" issue in making his challenge. The military discharged him in 1995, and a lower court upheld that action.

The appeals panel split with three separate decisions. Two sustained the lower court, largely on grounds of deference to the military and their judgment of what is necessary for "unit cohesion."

Judge Betty Fletcher dissented, writing that "the military's policy of differentiating between the private sexual activities of its heterosexual and homosexual service members is not rationally related to a legitimate government interest." She drew heavily upon the equal protection arguments handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Romer v. Evans*, the Colorado Amendment 2 decision.

Philips's attorney Matt Coles, with the ACLU Lesbian and Gay Rights Project, said, "The court failed to grapple with the core issue in this case. Creating separate rules of conduct just for lesbians and gay men to accommodate the discomfort of others is unconstitutional."

"This was a premise [conduct] that everyone is very scared to question," said Beatrice Dohrn, with the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund. There are a lot of hurdles to go over in order to overturn the ban.

A decision on whether or not to appeal for an en banc review by the full Ninth Circuit will be made in the next several weeks. The Circuit accepts only a few such appeals.

The legal challenge that seems to have the best chance to overturn the ban is now in a New York courtroom. The case is *Able v. Perry*, which won at the trial level and was appealed by the government. Last year the appeals panel remanded the case back to trial judge Eugene Nickerson for a ruling base on equal protection arguments. His decision is expected at any time. ▼

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COMMUNITY NEWS

SF gay artist sues Gucci

by Mike Salinas

Gay San Francisco artist Gary Bukovnik has a copyright infringement lawsuit against the Italian fashion company Gucci for copying several of his paintings on a Gucci scarf.

The suit, filed Friday, February 14, claims that Bukovnik's floral watercolor paintings had been collected into an art book and that Gucci's scarf design copies the book's images without authorization, sometimes identically and sometimes in modified form. For instance,

one of his watercolors was of a potted amaryllis with a blank tag tied around its stem. In the scarf version, the pot has been changed from black to terra cotta, and the tag has been filled in with the word "Gucci."

Bukovnik is well-known in San Francisco for his fine art and his contributions to area AIDS charities; he has created several card designs for Under One Roof, the retail AIDS fundraising store on Market Street, and annually creates holiday cards for Project Open Hand's home meal delivery service to PWAs. ▼



Amaryllis delicti

Courtesy of Gary Bukovnik

Gay lawyers link with annoy.com

by Dennis Conkin

The 500-member gay and lesbian group Bay Area Lawyers For Individual Freedom (BALIF) has joined with ApolloMedia Corporation, which operates the extremely controversial Internet web site www.annoy.com, in filing an amicus brief with the United States Supreme Court over a provision of the one-year-old Communications Decency Act (CDA).

The provision, which criminalizes any "indecent computer communications intended to annoy another person," is more than censorship, according to ApolloMedia president Clinton Fein.

"It's the most chilling violation of free speech that I have ever heard of," Fein said, adding, "It's a freedom of press issue in another way."

The CDA, which President Clinton signed into law with great fanfare last February, also spells out a fine and criminal penalties of up to two years in federal prison for persons convicted of violating the statute.

But under its vague language, Fein said, for example, an article mailed by the *Bay Area Reporter* to someone who found the article "annoying" could provoke action under the provisions of the statute.

The CDA also suppresses political dissent, Fein said, something he experienced first-hand in apartheid South Africa. Fein insisted that the effort at censorship must be challenged.

"I believe that it's not only our right, but our duty, to tell Bill Clinton to fuck off," he said.

William Bennett Turner, who wrote the amicus brief, said in a press statement that the CDA was "the most sweeping restriction" on the speech of ordinary citizens ever attempted by federal legislators.

ApolloMedia and BALIF are urging the Court to find that the government does not have a compelling interest in restricting "indecent speech," and that banning "patently offensive" speech also bans sexually explicit speech among adults because children in the nation's "least tolerant communities" might find it offensive.

With 150,000 users signing onto the web site in the last two weeks of operation, Fein says that annoy.com gives users the right to discourse freely on all subjects, including religion and politics, in more than one media.

The website is intentionally abrasive, mixing buzzwords and icons ranging from crucifixes and

swastikas in a non-stop blinking barrage. At several points it reminds those who have logged on that its express purpose is to annoy them.

In addition to annoy.com,

ApolloMedia also operates websites for Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, Community United Against Violence, and the Hawaii Equal Rights Marriage Project. ▼

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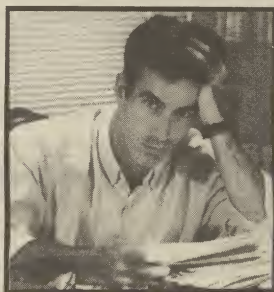


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Bond's for Victory

Meet the election fund's new director

by Bob Roehr

I hate photographs," squirms Brian Bond as a reporter raises the camera. "I can't go to the bad boy bars if people see my picture." There is a relaxed intensity to Bond this morning of only his third day on the job as executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

His white shirt is crisply starched, a silk tie (its woven pattern richly intricate but subtly

muted) is properly knotted at his throat. He appears relaxed but is very careful to stay "on message" and talks around those few subjects he doesn't want to deal with directly. The man is a pro.

The 35-year-old Bond grew up near Joplin, Missouri. You can still hear those roots in his voice, most clearly when he intones the name of his home state, "Miz-ZUR-rah." He has been a political junkie since high school and worked on a number of campaigns in the region. He moved to Washington in 1990 to take up a job at the Democratic National Committee. During the last election he was their director of gay and lesbian outreach, then switched over to the inaugural committee.

"I didn't relish the thought of doing the fight for a White House or administration job," he says. And he admits to feeling "just a little bit burnt out." But the challenges of the Victory Fund were where "I really felt I could make a difference." He lobbied very hard to get this job, lining up community heavyweights like David Mixner and Roberta Achtenberg to support him.

But his selection is not without controversy. Some question whether Bond's strongly partisan Democratic background is the right one for a national organiza-

tion that claims to be non-partisan.

Log Cabin Republicans spokesman Kevin Ivers describes Bond as "a slash-and-burn operative for the DNC." He doesn't see the choice as sending a message of inclusion to the community, a third of which regularly votes Republican.

"Log Cabin Club Lap Dogs" is the subject line Bond gave to an e-mail he widely distributed last October. One of its more inflammatory lines read, "They continue to sell their soul and our lives down the river."

Bond readily concedes he "shot from the hip...and may very well have overstepped the bounds at that point." Almost immediately after sending it out, "I took it down to the chief of staff's office, and the political director, and said, you need to know what I did. They said, 'Oh my, were we having a bad day?' And I said, 'Yeah.'"

"I understand where they [Log Cabin] are coming from in saying that what I was doing in tearing them down didn't necessarily serve the community well."

Party or community?

ACT UP's Steve Michael has his own bone to pick with Bond. Michael ran for the Democratic presidential nomination in the New Hampshire primary. He says



Brian Bond, Executive Director of the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund.

he got the information he needed on delegates "from a straight guy" at the DNC, "by faking out" Bond, who "was just there to do damage control." Michael says he was "trying to make the president better on AIDS, and Bond undermined that." He has "grave reservations about someone who would put the party above the community."

Bond responds that he was doing his job, and looks forward to putting his talents directly to work for the community. He believes "the flood gates have opened," and more and more openly gay and lesbian candidates will be stepping forward to run for office. "We have to be prepared to meet that challenge" with expanded financial and technical support and training.

He first wants to bring some stability to the Victory Fund, which has gone through two executive directors in the last 18 months. "It's a matter of building on the good will" that exists for the organization and "moving it up to the next level." Then, as resources grow, he hopes to offer more and better training and eventually polling support for candidates.

One of the first calls Bond made after starting the job was to Rich Tafel, executive director of Log Cabin Republicans. They are going to sit down and talk. "I would love to do a couple of joint events," says Bond. "I have a commitment to do this job on a non-partisan basis, to bring in the most people to advance our community and our candidates. I will do everything in my power to be fair."

But he admits, "Talk is cheap. I'm from the 'Show Me' state, so I think the biggest pressure on me is to produce." Even his critics would agree with Bond on that. ▼

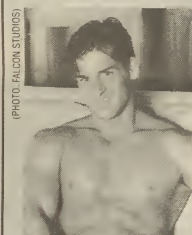


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NGLTF, HRC leaders talk with the B.A.R.

by Cynthia Laird

The leaders of the two leading gay political organizations in America say that their groups are just as important as ever in the Bay Area in particular and Northern California in general. Kerry Lobel, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF) executive director, and Elizabeth Birch, executive director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), met with the *Bay Area Reporter* during Gay Ski Week in Aspen, Colorado last month. Birch has Bay Area ties; she was the chief litigating attorney at Apple Computer before taking the top job at HRC.

"We have some of our largest memberships there," Lobel said, referring to the Bay Area, despite the fact that NGLTF closed its San Francisco office after former media director Robert Bray left in December. "Traditionally, Californians have a dislike of people from the [Washington, DC] Beltway, and that's made it hard for some of the media work. But some of our deepest relationships are with people in California."

Both NGLTF, founded in 1973, and HRC, formed in 1980, are based in Washington, DC. HRC concentrates on lobbying work, its political action committee (PAC), and is active in all aspects of the legislative process. NGLTF focuses on supporting grassroots organizing and provides information on public policy issues.

HRC is the largest national gay political organization, with 200,000 members, Birch said. An estimated 20 percent of the membership is heterosexual. NGLTF has a membership of more than 35,000 people, Lobel said.

Birch said the presence of so many gay and lesbian groups in the state is also a factor. "It [HRC] becomes dissipated in California with so many organizations," she acknowledged.

There's something else to consider as well, they pointed out: both HRC and NGLTF spend time and resources with gay communities in smaller states that don't have the large, sophisticated gay communities that exist in several California cities.

"A substantial portion of our income comes from the middle of the country," Birch said.

The women were asked about the direction and focus of their organizations in the event that the AIDS pandemic somehow gets under control. Neither Birch nor Lobel suggested that would happen in the foreseeable future.

"One-half of HRC lobbying is spent on getting money for HIV/AIDS," Birch said. "The lesbian and gay movement will never abandon the disease until there is a cure. We have a moral obligation to stay focused on the disease until it's over."

She added that in San Francisco, during the early years of AIDS, she couldn't imagine a day would come when the end of AIDS would even be discussed as something that actually might happen.

Added Lobel, "When the cure comes, the barriers to that cure will still be in place. Homophobia will still be there. There are very bad sodomy laws, and people [can't] do HIV education and prevention. Those laws are still in place. There is still a world of work."



Kindred spirits: Kerry Lobel of NGLTF and Elizabeth Birch of HRC.

"Many, many people can't afford the new drugs. And that cure is not going to change lives of gay people in our struggle for freedom," Lobel said.

NGLTF programs

There are three things NGLTF is focusing on, Lobel said. The first is its annual Creating Change Conference, scheduled for November 6-10 in Alexandria, Virginia. The conference is a gathering of activists and organizers in the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender movements.

NGLTF also has a policy institute in Washington, DC that serves as a resource center for gay and lesbian organizations and activists.

The institute translates academic research into activist-accessible information, initiates new research, and produces public policy documents. Cutting-edge educational materials are also produced, Lobel explained.

Finally, NGLTF has a public policy staff that continues working for social justice.

Focus of HRC

Birch said the HRC's quarterly magazine has been expanded. Additionally, the group's one-of-a-

kind Action Center on the World Wide Web allows users to send instant electronic messages to their representatives in Congress.

"We'll also continue the Youth College this year," Birch said.

Lobbying efforts on all of the issues affecting the gay community will continue. Those issues include AIDS funding, domestic partner benefits, same-sex marriage, and employment non-discrimination laws.

Lobel said the work accomplished by both NGLTF and HRC has, over the years, brought change for the better.

"In the Bay Area, political power and activism are united. The work HRC's done [has helped] elect good candidates and changed the San Francisco Board of Supervisors," said Lobel, referring to three of the members being openly gay or lesbian.

Birch said all the national gay groups need to continue working together.

"It's going to take all of us. No one is arrogant enough to do it alone," Birch said. ▼

For more information about NGLTF, call (202) 332-6483; for HRC, call (202) 628-4160.

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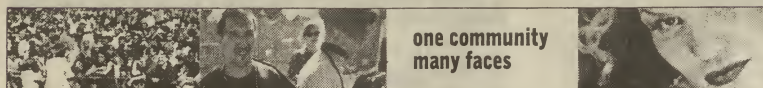
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Catholics petition for change, including end to homophobia

United Press International

Roman Catholic activists on the first Sunday of Lent, February 16, were out in force in several cities, seeking support for the unsanctioned and controversial "We are Church" referendum that calls for a liberalization of the church.

The group is pursuing numerous reforms, including respect for rights of gay and lesbian Catholics, women's ordination, optional celibacy for clergy, and "primacy of conscience in moral decision making."

Petitioners gathered at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City and Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago, among other churches. Cardinal John O'Connor told the congregation in St. Patrick's it is "up to your conscience whether you sign any kind of a petition at all."

The coalition movement has already garnered 2 million signa-

tures in Austria and West Germany, where it was started in 1995. "We are Church" seeks 1 million signatures in the United States by Pentecost, May 18.

The national coordinator of the coalition, Sister Maureen Fiedler, said, "Jesus affirmed people and engaged in lively dialogues with them — even with those with whom he disagreed. The Church is called to follow that example."

Said Fiedler outside St. Patrick's, "I think that if our faith community is going to be true to that kind of church that Jesus left us, we have to be open and dialogic as well."

A Chicago radio station sampled the opinions of 12 worshippers on the reforms. All 12 favored ordination of women; the vote for gay and lesbian recognition was split; and there were unclear results for making celibacy voluntary. One person said it would increase candidates in a time of need. ▼

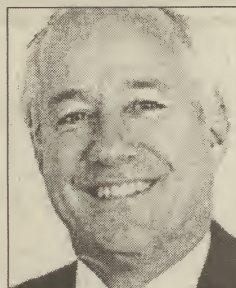
Gay Rep. delivers Reps' rap

United Press International

Arizona Representative Jim Kolbe delivered the Republicans' weekly nationwide radio broadcast on Saturday, February 15, for the first time since he officially confirmed his homosexuality last August. Kolbe did not discuss matters relating to sexual freedom, but restricted his comments to support of the now-dead balanced budget amendment.

Kolbe said the only true way to test whether Washington is committed to balancing the budget is to pass a constitutional amendment requiring it, and that "President Clinton's opposition to a balanced budget amendment that includes Social Security Trust Fund surplus in the equation" is a "seductive but disingenuous argument."

"Could the president simply be using the pretext of 'saving' Social Security," he asked, "to mark his fundamental opposition to a bipartisan balanced budget in any form?"



Arizona Representative Jim Kolbe

Kolbe held a series of town hall meetings with constituents last month and says the two biggest issues he heard discussed were Social Security and balancing the budget.

Kolbe and Democratic Representative Charlie Stenholm of Texas co-chair the Public Pension Reform Caucus, a bipartisan group hoping to deal with the problem of a diminishing Social Security fund.

Congressional Republicans gave up on passing a balanced budget amendment on Monday. ▼

American

◀ page 5

Chicago flight, resulting in international negative press for the airline.

American Airlines was also deeply embarrassed after a 1993 incident when workers on flights from Washington, DC to Dallas requested "a complete change of all pillows and blankets due to gay activists on board." The activists were returning home from the April 1993 March on Washington.

What's next?

If the still-unscheduled mediation is unsuccessful, a hearing on the charges could be held by the full Human Rights Commission.

If the complaints are upheld by the HRC, it could recommend the city's SFO contracts with the airline be canceled or modified because of the anti-gay workplace discrimination.

McFarlane and the other complainants also have grounds to sue under civil and federal workplace discrimination statutes. ▼

Musical Czars:

Goosby, formerly of SFGH, named AIDS Czar

by Bob Roehr

AIDS czar" Patsy Fleming departed on Valentine's Day, and when the music stopped, the White House press office released a low-key statement saying that Eric P. Goosby would sit in her chair as acting director of the Office of National AIDS Policy (ONAP).

Fleming had begun the job as an interim replacement for the first director, Christine Gebbie, and was made permanent a few months into her two-and-a-half-year tenure. Opinion is divided as to whether Goosby will follow that pattern.

Goosby's paper credentials are impeccable. He's African-American, a medical doctor, and has been involved with HIV for 14 years. Stops include work as a primary care physician at San Francisco General Hospital and his present work as coordinator of HIV activities at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

His most visible current project is, in light of protease therapy, to coordinate creation of new guidelines for treatment, and the financial policy of third parties, health insurers, and Medicare, and Medicaid to pay for them. The first step was an NIH-sponsored conference in November which was supposed to have led to

guidelines being issued in January. That didn't happen. The target date is now March.

"He's a nice guy, he is very well-intentioned," said one AIDS insider, reflecting the consensus of that small community. The only problem is, "I don't think he has ever quite figured out how to make things work. He's not a very competent administrator."

The source recounted one meeting where Goosby asked in all sincerity, "Do you think people are going to want to take protease inhibitors?" It took a half hour of discussion to convince the bureaucrat that the question would take care of itself.

Most people have several reasons to be reluctant to speak of Goosby on the record. One is that they do like the man. They also are aware that they must work with him. And finally, they question whether disagreement over staffing a position of questionable utility is the best use of their time and resources when policy and funding issues are looming.

Another Washington insider is concerned that moving Goosby to the White House will allow HHS to eliminate its own AIDS office. "Shalala has been trying to eliminate it for the past three years," he said. "She really doesn't like HIV/AIDS, even though it is her bread and butter issue, both financially and in terms of public

visibility." A third person calls the HHS shut-down "inevitable."

About the only people willing to speak of Goosby on the record are outsiders, ACT UP/DC. "This is another wasted opportunity," said Steve Michael. Wayne Turner added, "Selection of another bureaucratic paper-pusher proves that Bill Clinton has no interest in fighting the AIDS epidemic." They noted that while Clinton touted the NIH-led search for an AIDS vaccine in his State of the Union address, his proposed spending increase for the NIH didn't even keep pace with inflation.

The AIDS Action Council was careful to show respect for Goosby, while at the same time making it clear that his appointment should be but a transition, not a final solution. Executive director Daniel Zingale urged that ONAP be elevated to a Cabinet-level position and be used "as a bully pulpit to affect political and societal change. It must be given sufficient resources for the fight against AIDS."

"We urge that he [the president] consider high-profile figures such as Henry Cisneros [former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development], Jesse Jackson, [outgoing FDA Commissioner] David Kessler, [former Texas Governor] Ann Richards, or Gen. John Shalikashvili [chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff]."

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HIV planning council
retreat Saturday****by Cynthia Laird**

The Mayor's HIV Health Services Planning Council is holding a retreat on Saturday, February 22 in San Francisco. The session runs from 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and is open to the public, just like regular council meetings. There will also be an opportunity for public comment early in the day.

The retreat is being facilitated by staff from the Support Center, who have been working with the council since last fall.

A number of topics will be discussed, including how to complete the prioritization process that will take place later this year for the next cycle of federal Ryan White CARE funds. The prioritization process used by the council last November and December involved facilitators from the Support Center, who worked with members to determine the ranking of HIV/AIDS service categories and the dollar amounts for each. Council members' opinions over last year's progress have been mixed.

The council will also receive an overview of their federally mandated responsibilities. Unlike the HIV Prevention Planning Council, which is an advisory group, this body is charged with deter-

mining specific dollar amounts for each service category, as well as determining the service categories.

Council member Diane Jones, who's helping plan the retreat, said the group needs to determine what would be a "meaningful process."

The roles of the council co-chairs and the council's working committees will also be discussed.

The last council retreat was held August 10. Attendance by members was low, and member Will Carter urged people to attend Saturday's session.

"I'd like to ask people to really attempt to come to this," Carter said.

Some time will also be spent working on team building - or as Jones put it, "how we can work better." ▼

The retreat will be held in Room 301 of San Francisco State University's downtown campus, located at 425 Market Street, at Fremont. The site is near BART. The council will hold its regular meeting Monday, February 24 beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, 10 United Nations Plaza at Market and Seventh streets, in the sixth floor conference room.

**SF HIV prevention
plan reviewed****by Cynthia Laird**

A new leader will be elected to San Francisco's 37-member HIV Prevention Planning Council (HPPC) next month. Outgoing co-chair Ana Claire Meyer said she leaves the post after two years with a feeling of accomplishment, but also the realization that much remains to be done in terms of HIV prevention efforts.

The council has one co-chair from the Department of Public Health - Gene Copello, chief of the Health and Prevention Services Branch of the AIDS Office - plus two co-chairs from the community. In addition to Meyer, Ronnie Ashley/Chata is a community co-chair; their terms are staggered in two-year cycles, so Ashley/Chata will stay. Council member Ellen Goldstein was nominated for Meyer's co-chair position at the Thursday, February 13 council meeting.

Also at Thursday's meeting, council members received the first in a series of orientations to the 1997 HIV Prevention Plan that the HPPC released last month. Lyn Paleo of Harder + Company, which consulted and wrote the nearly 700-page document, said, "This plan is the stepping-stone for work this year."

The council's working committees put together all the ideas in the prevention plan, Meyer said. The consultants wrote the plan, which was ultimately approved by the council.

"I think everyone's really happy with the plan," Meyer said of the end result.

Meyer told the B.A.R. that the HPPC decided that trying to prioritize strategies and interventions in the plan "was unrealistic with the diversity of the city." For example, street outreach would be appropriate for the Tenderloin and Castro, but would not successfully reach other targets. Support groups would probably work for women, Meyer explained, but "probably not for injection drug users (IDUs)."

"We decided we couldn't prioritize," Meyer said. "We left it up to the providers to explain to the council."

According to Meyer, the philosophical development around specific behavioral risk groups began with the first prevention plan, in 1995. Strategic intervention and priority-setting took place in the council's second year, with the council's goal of developing a Request for Proposal (RFP) process, through which agencies bid for HIV prevention contracts last November.

In previous years, the AIDS Office made the recommendations that were then approved by the Health Commission.

Dr. Mitch Katz, the AIDS Office director, upset some HPPC members by acting against the council's recommendations in awarding the prevention contracts this year. In some instances, agencies that received the contracts did not meet criteria the council set in the RFPs.

A compromise was ultimately reached earlier this month, and the Health Commission approved over \$2 million in federal prevention funds be distributed to nine

COMMUNITY NEWS

75 picket over East Bay AIDS clinic

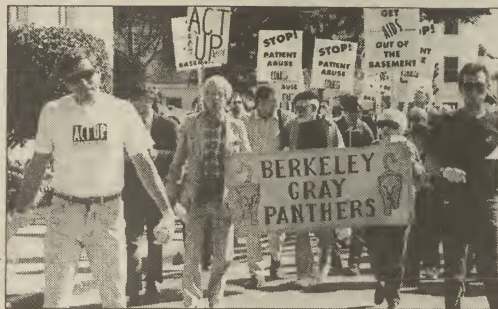
by Cynthia Laird

Over 70 AIDS activists, seniors, and healthcare professionals converged on tiny Fairmont Hospital in San Leandro Friday, February 14 to protest Alameda County's delays in relocating the AIDS Clinic from its cramped, crowded area to more spacious quarters.

The 12-year-old clinic, located in a ground floor building, shares space with a women's clinic and a prenatal clinic. Oftentimes, sick kids are in the same waiting area as AIDS patients, a potentially dangerous situation, according to ACT UP/East Bay member John Iversen, who organized the Valentine's Day picket.

Iversen said the county has needlessly delayed moving the AIDS Clinic to the vacant second floor of Building C, yet hospital CEO Mike Smart redecorated his office when he moved to Fairmont Hospital last year. Promises for a larger clinic have been forthcoming from the county since December 1995, but nothing has been done, added Iversen.

Smart was noticeably absent during the peaceful but vocal



Jeff Getty (front left) and John Iversen (front right) lead February 14 demonstration at Fairmont Hospital in San Leandro. The group is calling for the small AIDS clinic to be moved to a larger facility. Iversen promises to be back on June 2 to "celebrate or demonstrate."

demonstration last week. His reserved parking spot was empty, prompting ACT UP/East Bay member Robert Carpick to angrily shake his fist at the sign as he said the hospital was suffering from "chronic neglect syndrome."

"Mike Smart, have a heart. Let the renovations start," the crowd chanted as they circled outside the hospital's administration building.

Those taking part in the picket included AIDS activist Jeff

Getty; members of the Berkeley Gray Panthers, a seniors activist group; members of the California Nurses Association; and People United to Save Healthcare (PUSH). Iversen was extremely pleased with the turn-out.

"Getting 75 people to San Leandro is no small feat," he said.

Both Smart and David Kears, Alameda County health director, declined to return repeated phone calls from the B.A.R. regarding the demonstration and the AIDS Clinic relocation issue.

Before the protest, Kears told the B.A.R. that the county is well

page 27 ►

Key step found in HIV dementia

by Lidia Wasowicz
UPI Science Writer

In a finding that may lead to new therapies, researchers reported Wednesday, February 12 they have discovered the first step in the process that leads to dementia in up to a third of patients with AIDS.

Writing in the British journal *Nature*, the investigators from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston said they have deciphered part of the biochemical "password" by which HIV, which causes AIDS, gains entry to brain cells — the first key step toward AIDS dementia.

The finding opens the door to potential new therapies for HIV brain infections, the study authors said. While current combination drug treatments can suppress the virus in the blood, they are less effective against HIV in the brain, raising the dire possibility of a drug-resistant strain emerging from its cerebral hideaway to re-infect the rest of the body.

In AIDS dementia, nerve cells called neurons die. While not themselves infected by HIV, the nerve cells are believed to be killed by toxins released when the virus infects neighboring cells.

"We focused on microglia, specialized immune system cells found in the brain which are closely related to white blood cells called macrophages, which, along with T cells, are HIV's usual haunts," said lead study author Dr. Dana Gabuzda.

For a decade, researchers have known that microglia provide a key target in the brain for HIV infection, but they had no details about the mechanism for such in-

fection. Because of their structural similarity, microglia and macrophages were believed to be infected in similar fashion.

Previous studies showed HIV gains access to macrophages by latching onto a so-called "CD4 receptor" on the cell's surface and onto a co-receptor called CCR5. The latest experiments showed HIV binds to not only CD4 and CCR5 but to yet another co-receptor known as CCR3, said co-author Jianglin He.

"We found that when substances that normally bind to CCR5 and CCR3 are present, HIV infection is blocked, suggesting both co-receptors are involved in letting the virus inside the cell," Gabuzda said. "This is the first time CCR3 has been shown to play a role in HIV infection of cells in the body."

While other culprits may ease HIV's accessibility into cells, knowing at least part of the "co-receptor entrance code" may help researchers design drugs that block the brain infection.

Currently, the only effective drug against HIV in the brain is AZT — which is useful for only a couple of years. After that, drug-resistant forms of HIV usually emerge to render the drug powerless.

"The hope is to design drugs that, by chemically blocking CCR5 and CCR3 or other important co-receptors, can prevent infection of microglia from taking place, thereby preventing or delaying the onset of AIDS dementia," Gabuzda said.

For the 20 percent to 30 percent of AIDS patients who develop dementia, the symptoms can range from mild cognitive impairment to severe psychological and motor dysfunction. ▼

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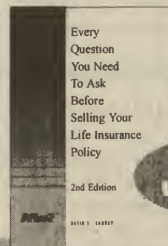
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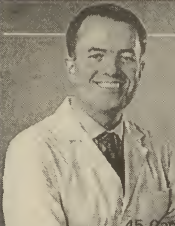
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Donna Shalala blinks on needle exchange

by Bob Roehr

The glacier of federal intransigence on needle exchange programs may be beginning to melt. The sign came in a Tuesday, February 18 letter and report from Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) Donna Shalala. The report contained no new data and consisted largely of excerpts from previous reports by other agencies. But it did, for the first time, acknowledge research indicating the effectiveness of needle exchange programs in reducing the transmission of HIV infection.

It was not a ringing endorsement of those programs, nor did it advocate dropping the federal ban on funding such programs. But at least the door had been cracked ajar.

The report made clear that this was not Shalala's initiative, but a response to a September request by Appropriations Committee chair Senator Arlen Specter (R-Pennsylvania). He had sought "data regarding the efficacy of needle exchange programs for reducing HIV transmission, and not encouraging illegal drug use."

The closing "summary," not conclusion, of the report stated:

"Overall these studies indicate that needle exchange programs can have an impact on bringing difficult-to-reach populations into systems of care that offer drug dependency services, mental health, medical and support services. These studies also indicate that needle exchange programs can be an efficient component of a comprehensive strategy to prevent HIV and other blood-borne infectious diseases in communities that choose to include them."

Shalala's report contrasted with, in fact illustrated, the strongly-worded conclusions reached the previous week by an NIH panel of outside experts studying barriers to prevention of HIV infection.

Those experts warned that a "dangerous chasm" exists between science and public policy. It charged that politics was placing the public health "at greatest risk." And it called support of needle exchange a top priority. [See story, next page.]

Reaction from the AIDS community was positive, though guarded. Winnie Stachelberg, legislative director of the Human Rights Campaign (HRC), said that HHS "reached the only scientifically honest conclusion possi-

ble." She called it important that "for the first time in the history of the AIDS epidemic, the federal government has publicly stated this conclusion."

Ben Schatz is executive director of the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association and a member of the Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS. "It is inching in the right direction," he said. "But when we are dealing with something that is killing thousands of people every year, caution is not acceptable, it is nothing we should be satisfied with."

Mike Shriver with the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA) was "profoundly disappointed they did not go the final step" and lift the ban on funding needle exchange. He said they have a commitment from the administration "to work with us on a process to make that goal happen."

Daniel Zingale, executive director of the AIDS Action Council, described the report as "an important first step." He joined in the call to the administration and Congress to fund both adequate drug treatment and needle exchange programs. "Too many lives are at stake to waste a minute more on this issue." ▼

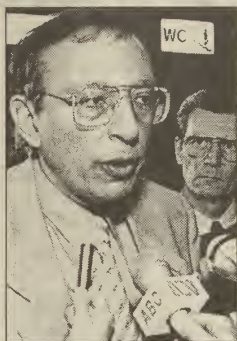
Gallo doubts HIV 'cures,' calls for vaccine effort

by Ed Susman
UPI Science News

AIDS researcher Dr. Robert Gallo says he doubts patients who have no detectable levels of AIDS virus in their blood are actually cured of the disease.

"In most cases when treatment is discontinued, the disease comes back," Gallo said Thursday, February 13 at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Seattle.

Over the past year many researchers have reported that patients being treated with combinations of drugs have achieved undetectable levels of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS. In some cases doctors have opted to remove these patients from the drugs in hopes that the disease was defeated. But, Gallo said in a press briefing, most often the virus comes back.



Dr. Robert Gallo

He says that before a "cure" can be declared in AIDS, he wants to have patients survive to a normal life expectancy and then die a natural death. If scientific study finds no virus, that would be a cure, Gallo says.

Gallo reported that new trials of an AIDS vaccine are underway in France using bits and pieces of HIV in an attempt to raise an immunologic response among patients.

But he indicates that other vaccines based on the use of a naturally occurring protein known as chemokines may have better success in the future.

Gallo says that pharmaceutical companies are spending less on vaccines and more on drug development in fighting AIDS. He said governments - "and not just one nation" - will have to lead development of a vaccine that can protect large numbers of people from AIDS.

He says that while the epidemic may be at a plateau in the United States and Europe, the epidemic is still out of control in most of the rest of the world. Even in the United States, the epidemic remains out of control in some segments of the population, particularly the poor and minorities. ▼

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Politics hamper AIDS prevention

by Bob Roehr

Politicians are the greatest barrier to effective HIV prevention, said a National Institutes of Health advisory panel of experts. The 104th NIH Consensus Development Conference came to that conclusion after extensive study and a three-day public meeting that concluded Thursday, February 13 at the NIH campus in Bethesda, Maryland.

"The epidemic of AIDS is not quiescent, it is not disappearing, it is not part of public health history. It is a current, pressing, and urgent public health emergency," said David Reiss M.D. He chaired the panel and is director of psychiatric research at the George Washington University Medical Center in Washington, DC.

"AIDS is a preventable disease, and the behavior placing the public health at greatest risk may be occurring in legislative and other decision-making bodies." He pointed overseas to third world countries, Uganda and Thailand, as "model examples" for our own government to emulate in HIV prevention. "It's not too late for the political leadership of the United States to follow their example."

The panel was unanimous in calling for prompt removal of the ban on federal funding of needle exchange programs. They concluded that "thousands of lives are at risk" if this ban is not removed. It also called for increased funding for substance abuse programs, lifting restrictions on sex educa-

tion, and increased availability of condoms.

The 12-member panel of outside experts was not designed to produce new data, but rather pull together existing information and come to strong consensus policy recommendations. Clearly the epidemic has not left gay men behind, but it is expanding most rapidly among communities of color and the young. An estimated 40,000-80,000 new infections occur each year, half in people under 25.

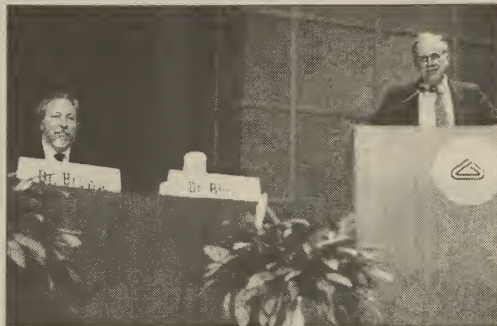
Speakers pointed out a number of often myth-shattering facts uncovered through research.

Sex education programs do not encourage sexual activity among the young, but have precisely the opposite effect. Those who are not yet sexually active are more likely to delay sex, while those who are sexually active tend to have fewer partners and adopt safer sexual practices as a result of such programs.

A 1992 national sexual survey, the most comprehensive in the field, conducted by researchers at the University of Chicago, revealed that 52 percent of men who have sex with men over a five-year period also have sex with women during that same period. Only 15 percent disclose their same-sex activities to their female partners.

And, as one researcher noted, in a recent study "about half the young men had sex with women, although they self-identified as gay rather than bisexual."

Panelist Martin Fishbein pointed out that there is a differ-



David Reiss M.D.: "AIDS is not disappearing, it is not part of public health history."

ence between using a condom and using it effectively. His example was simple and chilling.

"Everybody in this room who has used a condom has done this at least once," he began. "Our culture says you do things in the dark, so you open up your condom package and you fumble around and realize it doesn't go down. So you flip it over and put it down."

"Now stop and think. If somebody has gonorrhea (or HIV) and has a discharge, he has essentially covered the outside of the condom with the pathogen. He is essentially introducing the pathogen directly onto the other person's body."

Current law bans the use of federal funds for needle exchange programs, in large part because of fear they might promote drug use.

However, the law does allow the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to lift that ban if she certifies that such a program contributes to the public health.

More than 100 studies have shown that the availability of a needle is not a principal factor in whether or not a person becomes an injection drug user. They have demonstrated the effectiveness of needle exchange programs in reducing the spread of HIV and other diseases through sharing of contaminated needles.

But the first randomized control study came from Connecticut. That state changed its laws on drug paraphernalia in June 1992 to allow people to buy up to ten syringes and needles at a time at a pharmacy without a prescription. A study by the Centers for Disease Control found that needle sharing

dropped from 52 to 31 percent in Connecticut, while it remained the same in areas that restricted the ability to get clean needles.

The report concluded that unless the policy is changed, "Millions of unnecessary deaths will occur as a result."

"What we have reviewed and recommended in our statement should be clear enough," said panel member Mickey Smith. "Hopefully she [HHS Secretary Donna Shalala] will hear it."

Mike Shriver with the National Association of People With AIDS (NAPWA) summed it up. "Now scientists are saying there is no excuse. You cannot any longer say that needle exchange does not work. There is absolutely no reason why the secretary does not lift the ban. She has had the data for two years."

The panel report singled out for special criticism a measure that conservatives pushed through Congress last year to earmark \$50 billion in HIV prevention funding for teaching sexual abstinence.

Sections of the law mandate that eligible programs have as their "exclusive purpose, teaching the social, psychological, and health gains to be realized by abstaining from sexual activity" and that "a mutually faithful monogamous relationship in the context of marriage is the expected standard of human sexual activity."

The panel report said, "This approach places policy in direct conflict with science and ignores

page 24 ►

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Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. Please follow normal rules of capitalization — and no poetry. We reserve the right to edit for style, clarity, grammar, and taste.

If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for all obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Robert E. Field

July 11, 1933 — January 25, 1997



Bob reached his "Happy Destiny" on January 25, after suffering with emphysema and pneumonia, complicated by the AIDS virus. He will be remembered by family and friends both here in San Francisco and

in his home state of Washington. Among the many things Bob took pride in were his graduation from college; his work as a computer programmer and systems instructor; service as a tutor at McKinley School; involvement in the writing project at Shanti; and 14 years as a member of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Bob loved many things, including: his sobriety and sharing it with others; his friends and family; educating children; writing of his experiences with poetic fervor; his old cat "Sam"; new cat "Rocky"; the men of Mexico; old flames; new flames; good home cooking; and quotes from his Mother: "Oh, for goodness sake, Bob, don't dwell on it

anymore or it will just seem worse." Bob would have liked the saying, "Every exit is an entrance."

Bryan Hennessy

Nov. 1, 1966 — Jan. 17, 1997



Bryan's life came to an abrupt end at the hands of his assailant one night last month at his condo in San Jose. He will always be remembered by those who had the pleasure of meeting him and knowing

his sense of humor. Bryan was a thoughtful person who often lent a helping hand to assist friends and family. Many will remember the cards and letters he would send simply because he was thinking of you. Although we no longer have the joy of his company, we can cherish our memories of him and all the ways he changed and enhanced our lives. Bryan is survived by his parents, Norm & Inez Hennessy; his sister Vickie; brother Larry; and many friends.

Robert Lide Hunt

1949 — 1997



On Ash Wednesday, Robert passed away peacefully after suffering complications with a bleeding ulcer. He is survived by his lover of 13 years; mother Virginia; sister Dee; nephew Kenny; close

friends Dennis, Doug and Chuck; cats Gus and Maxine; cherished support group members; numerous other friends.

Robert was born in Fort Lauderdale and raised in Coral Gables. He moved to the San Francisco Bay Area in 1970, was a partner in a Healdsburg restaurant for a while, and spent 14 years working for the City of San Francisco as

a printer. He takes with him his quiet strength and wonderful sense of humor, and leaves behind his passion for gardens, cars, and travel.

Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Richard Crazen and the CCU nursing staff at Davies Medical Center. They helped us all get through a very sad and difficult time.

Donations in Robert's memory may be made to Project Open Hand or AIDS Benefit Counselors. A celebration of his life will be held on Palm Sunday, March 23. Please call Larry at (415) 826-8418 for more information.

Paul Carter Westen

Sept. 22, 1929 — Jan. 2, 1997



After complications following bypass surgery at Kaiser Hospital in San Francisco, our dear friend Paul Westen passed away on the morning of January 2. A "Celebration of Life" was held on Saturday,

January 25, and Paul has been laid to rest at Holy Cross Cemetery in Colma.

Paul was a strong supporter of the gay community and spent many hours volunteering for various AIDS agencies, giving generously of his time. He also made frequent cash donations, many of them anonymous.

From St. Louis, Paul moved to Los Angeles in his youth and became a professional rodeo performer. After leaving the rodeo because of a leg injury, he became one of the first "Marlboro Men," appearing in a two-page spread in *Life* magazine in the early '60s. After moving to San Francisco, Paul spent 23 years as chef at two prominent Nob Hill hotels before retiring in 1995. Paul was known by many as "the big guy in the beret" because he almost always wore one. He was a loyal and entertaining friend who will be sorely missed by all his friends. His passing is a loss to the entire gay community. God bless you, Paul.

Stoddard succumbs to AIDS

by Bob Roehr

Tom Stoddard, 48, an articulate and passionate national leader of the gay and lesbian community, died in New York City of AIDS-related illness. He is survived by his companion Walter Rieman.

Stoddard was trained as a lawyer and began private practice, but soon joined the New York Civil Liberties Union in its Albany office. He helped draft the 1986 New York City legislation that protects gays from bias in housing, employment, and public accommodations.

He became executive director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund in 1986. During the next six years he led its growth from six to 22 employees and into a national force in the legal struggle for gay and lesbian equality. Soon after assuming the position he was faced with *Bowers v. Hardwick*, the Georgia sodomy case before the U.S. Supreme Court which solidified the second class status of homosexuals. He called



Tom Stoddard

it "our Dred Scott case," comparing it to the famous ruling that slaves were not full citizens.

Stoddard moved Lambda to the forefront of fighting AIDS dis-

crimination and later learned of his own HIV-positive status. Illness led to his departure from Lambda, but he continued to do pro bono legal work for people with AIDS while teaching law at New York University.

In 1993 national community leaders drafted Stoddard to head up the Campaign for Military Service, the coalition effort on gays in the military. He was unsatisfied with the outcome, which the Clinton administration characterized as a "compromise." "You cannot simply split the difference on matters of principle," he said.

Longtime colleague Arthur Leonard, professor at the New York Law School, said, "Despite all the institutional credentials, I think Tom's most important contribution was as a role model public interest lawyer who was out and loud and proud. When he appeared on that television screen or was quoted in the nation's leading papers, the image that came across was professionalism, intelligence, thoughtfulness — and this in an openly gay man." ▼

NIH

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overwhelming evidence that other programs would be effective. Such abstinence-only programs cannot be justified in the face of effective programs."

Shriver called it "a very frightening thing to think that we have \$50 million, the largest prevention increase we have seen in the history of HIV, and we can use it only for abstinence-based education. Gaggling them by telling them they can't talk frankly about homosexuality, or can't talk frankly about injection drug use, is gag-

ging them from talking at all."

Representative Tom Coburn (R-Oklahoma) is a physician, close to Focus on the Family leader James Dobson, and a leading advocate of the conservative social agenda in Congress. He was not surprised by the panel's recommendations. He told the *Washington Post* that was to be expected given the "complete absence of anybody that has a different point of view" from the body.

"Call it what it is. It's genocide," said Tom Coates, the highly respected head of the Center for AIDS Prevention Studies (CAPS) at the University of California,

San Francisco. "The federal government's inability and unwillingness to fund needle exchanges, and have drug treatment on demand, and to provide effective sex education for kids is genocide."

"If we said we know how to make flying safer, but we said we were not going to do it because we were afraid that the airlines were going to get a little bit lax, the country would rise up. That is exactly what this is."

Anke Ehrhardt, director of the HIV Center for Clinical and Behavioral Studies at Columbia University, added, "And on top of that, it is clearly racist, there is no question." ▼

HEALTH PERSPECTIVE

What? Where? When? How?

A user's guide to viral load

by Bill Thorne, ACT UP/
Golden Gate Writers' Pool

The bells are ringing, the streets are gay... Yes, it's true there's a lot more reason for cautious hope for people with AIDS. New drugs, new tests, and new combinations abound — as do confusion and complicated decision-making. Volumes of information are available about protease inhibitors and combo cocktails of drugs, but the questions of "when to start," "when to switch," and "is it working?" depend largely on the results of your own viral load tests, and many questions remain about the use of and access to this latest measure of HIV activity.

What is it?

Currently, there are two widely used viral load tests: Chiron Diagnostics' bDNA and Roche Laboratories' AmpliCor PCR. Both are available commercially from medical labs and are paid for by most private insurance. However, people without private insurance may have difficulty getting the tests. Most state ADAPs and Medicaid programs, for example, do not provide coverage for viral load testing — or any other diagnostics, for that matter. The tests cost approximately \$150 per test. The two companies, at the urging of activists, have sponsored a program, discussed below, to provide free tests to people without insurance coverage.

Chiron's bDNA method uses a DNA probe to bind to viral RNA. A second piece of specially treated ("branched") DNA is added, which also binds to the viral RNA. This creates a virus/DNA structure. This structure is then chemically treated, and viral load is measured by how much of a particular type of light is emitted.

Roche's PCR (polymerase chain reaction) measures viral load differently. Viral RNA is manipulated to create a piece of DNA. This piece of DNA is then artificially expanded or amplified many times (hence the name AmpliCor). The result is compared to a control (a non-manipulated sample of blood plasma). The ratio of how many DNAs correspond to the original RNA is used to calculate the number of viral RNA copies, thereby producing a viral load measurement.

The tests are considered to be similar in terms of their accuracy and results when done by a qualified medical lab. Both of these tests return a number that is the measure of the amount of virus RNA particles in a cubic millimeter of blood. A viral load test of around 100,000 (5.0 log) and above is considered a higher viral load, and is believed associated with an increased risk of disease progression. A viral load test of below 1,000 copies (3.0 log) is considered a lower viral load and is associated with slower disease progression, but may indicate enough HIV activity to allow the virus to overcome the drugs, leading to treatment failure. A viral load test below around 200 copies (2.3 log), the limit of detection of the most sensitive commercially available tests, appears to reduce the incidence of treatment failure.

According to data just presented at the 1997 Retrovirus Conference in Washington, DC, the low-

est point (nadir) that a person achieves in their viral load reduction on a particular therapy is the best predictor of how long that therapy will remain effective for that person. Newer, experimental versions of viral load tests go down to less than 20 copies; a few years ago the lower limit was 10 thousand. These tests will continue to become more and more accurate.

Viral load numbers can fluctuate as a result of other infections, receiving flu shots, or human lab error. It is generally recommended that a widely varying viral load result be retested before using that result as a basis for changing therapy. Also, research has shown that in the acute phase of infection (at least the first several months following infection, possibly up to a year), viral load test results do not predict disease progression or survival. Viral load levels are often exponentially higher during this phase. This is due to the fact that the body is in the process of mounting a huge immune response to the infection. Following this immune response is when viral load tests actually become reliable for progression and survival.

Why is viral load important?

Viral load tests are nearly universally believed to be the most accurate tool available to measure the impact of anti-HIV treatments within the body. Using viral load levels to measure anti-HIV drug activity makes common sense as these tests are the first to directly measure the amount of virus in a person's blood. Experiments have shown that blood viral load levels reflect levels in lymph nodes and other tissues. Correlations to improved quality of life, decreased disease progression, and survival with reduction of viral load in the blood have been repeatedly proven.

How should it be used?

If antiviral therapy is working, viral load test results should drop when compared from before and following an appropriate period of treatment, whether beginning new therapy or switching therapies. Ideally, T-cell counts should go up during the course of treatment as well.

How often viral load tests should be performed is still under debate. Approaches include periodic measurements (i.e., every 3 to 4 months) and measurements just before and shortly after treatment changes, followed by a periodic measurement as long as current therapy appears beneficial. Although different researchers and doctors use different formulas or combinations of T-cell measurements and viral load measurements, most seem to agree that reduction of viral load to "below detection" should be one of the main goals of antiviral therapy. Anytime virus is allowed to reproduce in the presence of a drug, the virus theoretically has a chance to overcome the drug, leading to treatment failure. "Below detection" is when the number of viral particles is so small it is below the detection limit of the particular test.

It is important to remember

that these viral load tests only measure free viral RNA particles in the blood. Other measurements have shown that when RNA is undetectable, HIV remains within cells in the body as pro-viral DNA, and HIV appears capable of quickly re-emerging

if anti-HIV therapy is stopped, either from pro-viral DNA or other reservoirs. Therefore, even when undetectable by RNA techniques, the virus has not been eliminated or eradicated. It is also possible that pro-viral DNA infected cells can transmit

HIV during unprotected sex, so for now "safe sex" remains the key to preventing the spread of HIV.

Eradication of HIV remains a theoretical subject for medical research; it is not a reality, only an outside unproved possibility. Stopping therapy or abandoning safe sex or other transmission-reducing behaviors would be dangerous and premature at this time.

Free access to the tests

After extensive negotiations, both the Chiron and Roche tests are available for free for uninsured and underinsured people with AIDS. A program called VLAP (Viral Load Access Program) has been developed with community involvement. This

program resulted from a meeting requested by Roche Laboratories with community groups in San Francisco last August, in which Roche requested community assistance in getting reimbursement for their test.

Activists quickly converted the meeting to one to discuss how Roche could provide free tests to those not covered by insurance. Chiron and other viral load test manufacturers and pharmaceutical companies making anti-HIV drugs were invited to participate in a second meeting in New York. After several approaches were explored, it became evident that both Roche and Chiron must develop and implement free access to those who had no access through insurance.

Things remained bogged down for the next two months. Community treatment activists from around the country gathered at the National AIDS Treat-

ment Activist Forum (NATAF) in early October. ACT UP/Golden Gate and ACT UP/New York wrote the VLAP Consensus Statement that was signed by 20 national and international AIDS organizations including, ACT UPs/Philadelphia and Paris, AIDS Healthcare Foundation, AIDS Project Los Angeles, AIDS Treatment News, Critical Path, Gay Men's Health Crisis, National Association of People with AIDS, Project Inform, PWA Health Group, San Francisco AIDS Foundation/BETA, and Treatment Action Group (TAG). This put a flame under both Roche and Chiron. Serious planning actually began to take place.

How to get the free tests

The results of these community efforts are two free programs available to people with AIDS with no insurance coverage to pay

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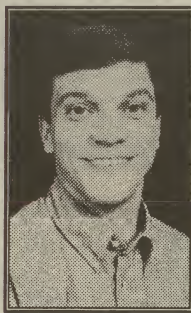
ACTION Update

Testing testing...

Please let us how the free access programs from Roche and Chiron are serving your needs. Please fax or call ACT UP/Golden Gate and leave a message for Bill Thorne with your comments, both good and bad. We need your feedback to ensure that these programs work. ▼

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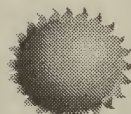


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Knee-jerk reaction

by Jim Provenzano

While returning to my cubicle at my menial job, I was asked by a co-cubicle worker about my activities. He mentioned that I resembled either a swimmer, cyclist, or dancer. Each was accurate. He actually said "ballerina," which I would have interpreted as slightly homophobic if not for the fact that this rather sturdy African-American gentleman has a boyfriend.

I reacted as any guy does. I blushed, thanked him for the compliment, but felt amiss that he'd not noticed my not-at-all secret passion.

He didn't say I looked like a wrestler.

How does an athlete look? How can you spot a physically fit person, and what does that say about them, their personal image, and their own identity? But even touchier, what can you say about someone's innate physical abilities?

Many a coach, athletic writer, and spokesperson has been castigated, hung out to dry, and basically gotten the heave-ho after making stupid comments about one group of people's ability in sport over another group of people. Take for example, Marge Schott. Okay, now take her down the river and toss her in it.

This controversy came to mind as I was taking a break between wrestling two very different gentlemen on our team, each of whom, to look at them, you would never figure as wrestlers.

Both of these guys carry themselves with a light ease, yet can get any man in their weight down to the ground in a matter of seconds.

Picture it, the stereotype of a wrestler: thick neck, Cro-Magnon forehead, cauliflower ears, etc. If you knew more about them — as a subspecies, which sometime I think we are — you would add: plaid shorts, poor hygiene, and short fingernails.

Reductivist, yet complimentary

But what of other stereotypes of athletes? Between wrestling bouts, I peered out the window down to the gym below us at Eureka Valley Recreation Center, which is a wonderful place, I might add.

There were two teams playing basketball, mostly white. Later, another game had begun, and all the players were black. Do you think I noticed any one group playing better than another? They all moved with the elegance of stallions, of dancers, of flocks of birds.

The fact that anybody's top ten basketball players these days, meaning the most famous and best paid, would be African-American men, does not prove that white men can't jump. Baryshnikov at his prime could match Michael Jordan in pure springability; imagine a one-on-one between Dennis Rodman and Nijinski. Go on, imagine it.

Some people are great at

things because these are the things available to them as opportunities. Some are not. See *Hoop Dreams*. Some people are great because they were the first, or one of the best, for their people. In my studies I came across a book called *The History of Jews in Sport*. Sounds funny, eh? It's a 500-page book, with some 2,500 entries.

For me, seeing an achievement by an Italian-American athlete, or filmmaker, or writer, is like seeing one of my own do good. People say Italians make better movies,

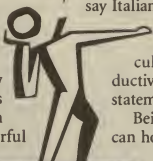
or clothes, or food; each of these is a culturally racial, and reductivist, yet complimentary statement.

Being Italian-American, I can honestly say that I don't think there are a great many world-class Italian basketball players, because, racially, not many of us grow to be seven feet in height,

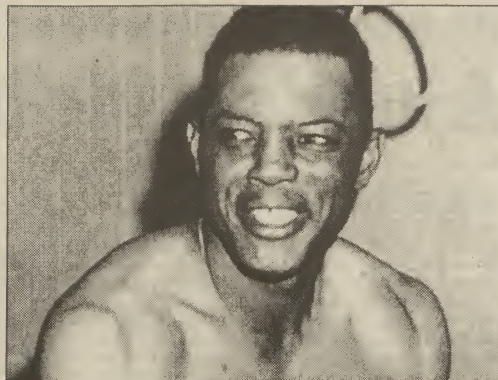
which is probably why we make movies and eat food instead, and play soccer.

As a kid, I had an innate craving for soccer. It was the one sport I remember wanting to play as a pre-teen. Was this some innate skill forcing its way out? *Il Calcio*, soccer, is the great sport of Italy, and most of Europe. Is it in my blood to be good at soccer, and did the disadvantage of not having a soccer team at my school lead to my continued use of my legs as a dancer?

The idea of skill and agility having more to do with genetics



Sports Complex



Willie Mays in this impromptu locker room pic from August of 1966.

Courtesy of The Sports Lover

than opportunity is still considered wrong by many. The problem of the debate, and I am not encouraging one, is that most non-African folk can only bring African-American athletes and actors to mind, because that's all we have in our limited viewpoint of African-Americans. All you non-Italian-Americans may have as a picture of my people is stereotypes in pasta commercials and films about the Cosa Nostra.

This is a problem.

Overcoming limitations

In amateur athletics, where ability is both learned and innate, many people are overcoming limitations. And yet others are fulfilling the goals set before them. I don't think one athlete can ever be better than another by dint of his heritage. If, however, your culture has made it easier to be relaxed, to be appreciated, to be accepted in the arena, then of course the athlete will improve. Jackie Robinson must surely have been a little ner-

vous on that first catch or home run. Barry Bonds, however, merely racks up the dough.

Is it any less difficult for a gay player, faced with constant, unending pressure and homophobia from fellow teammates, inane sportscasters, and ignorant fans? If Greg Louganis had been able to come out, would he have ever hit his head on the diving board? In a welcoming and supportive environment, obviously queer athletes would do better, and soar like Martina Navratilova.

But underneath it all, ability and susceptibility are the same, whether you're a basketball player whose great-great-grandparents were great Ghana jumpers, or a Russo-Slavic wrestler whose great-great-grandparents were always short. If they both got knee injuries, as any surgeon can tell you, the muscle and fibre and ligament of those two bodies, underneath it all, are both the same, a hundred visceral shades of pink. ▼

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PAGE

ACT UP

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for viral load. Roche Laboratories Amplior Patient Assistance Program is national in scope and screens patients and doctors for eligibility. For more information, call 1-888-TEST-PCR (837-8727). Chiron's Patient Assistance Program is being implemented regionally in San Francisco, Boston, Chicago and Los Angeles, with plans to expand soon to Houston, Miami, Philadelphia, New York,

DC and Atlanta, as well as several other municipal centers. For more information, call 1-888-HIV-LOAD (448-5623).

At the 4th Conference on Retroviruses and Opportunistic Infections last month in Washington DC, much new data was presented about viral load. Viral load tests have been shown to be cost effective in conjunction with antiviral therapy. It is clear that viral load tests are an important new tool to help PWAs and their health providers in determining a course of treatment. ▼

Chicago hoops helped by hops

by Jim Provenzano

Set your calendars, those who want a brisk road trip back east. The seventh annual Chicago Hoops Classic National Basketball Tournament will be held St. Patrick's Day Weekend, March 14-16.

The popular lesbian and gay tournament will feature teams and players from San Francisco, Boston, Sacramento, San Diego, Los Angeles, Houston, and eight other U.S. cities. The tournament is hosted by the Windy City Athletic Association, and is generously sponsored by Miller Brewing Company. Ah, yes, there's nothing I like to refresh me between rebounds better than a cold Miller Lite.

Fourteen teams in the men's division make this the largest gay men's basketball tournament ever. Long Beach and San Francisco are among the top teams considered in this event. Locals might want to stop by a men's basketball practice to lend support. The SF men's team practices every Sunday, at 5 p.m. at the Eureka Valley Community Center.

The women's bracket will feature some terrific Chicago and Minneapolis teams. ▼

Admission is free to all events, other than transportation to Chicago, of course. For more info, call (312) 477-6949, ext. 2.

CLASSIFIEDS

Imperial Court

◀ page 1

held for Emperor and Empress. From 1983 onward, monarchs combined their celebrations into one Coronation.

Emperors who have ruled since Norton share a sense of theatre and pageantry, an interest in making their city better, and a real commitment to the community that supports them. The tradition continues from Mr. Marcus, the first Emperor of the Imperial Court, to the emperor who will give up his crown this year, Steven Valone.

According to Fritz Hall, Treasurer to the Council of Emperors, the group has raised close to \$7,500 for the February 21st event. After expenses, \$3,000 is earmarked to be donated to one of five charities. At presstime all their names were not available, but chance will determine the winning charity—which is picked from a hat during the party.

The Council of Emperors Jubilee party is open to everyone who wants to attend, and is host-

ed by some very Imperial ladies: The Absolute First Empress Jose (The Widow Norton), and royalty from out of town: Empress I & IV Reba from Chico; Empress XV La Kish from Sacramento; and San Diego's Empress Nicole.

And the coronation

The Silver Jubilee celebration is just one of February's festivities sponsored by the Imperial Court. Coronation for the new Emperor and Empress of San Francisco is scheduled for Saturday night, February 22nd at the Gift Center. Of the 61 Imperial Courts in existence, more than 45 plan to send members to attend.

Sunday, February 23, the Court travels to Colma Cemetery, where The Widow Norton officiates at the gravesite of her dear departed husband, Joshua Norton. Then it's off to brunch at the Holiday Inn on Van Ness.

Marlena's bar on Hayes Street hosts two parties during Coronation weekend: the East Coast party, February 22, and the Alaska party, Sunday, February 23 (at 4 p.m.). Parties will also be held at the Bahia Club, the Giraffe, and Castro Station. ▼

Past Out

◀ page 12

the 1968 conference.

By its last two conferences in 1969 and 1970, NACHO found itself increasingly overshadowed in a rapidly changing and expanding gay and lesbian movement. The momentum had clearly shifted to newer, more radical organizations such as the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance. NACHO was never able to overcome its internal divisions and the fear of many of its member organizations that a strong national

group would encroach upon their autonomy. Still, the history of NACHO can serve as a necessary corrective to the widespread notion that gay and lesbian groups before Stonewall were timid, desultory, and irrelevant. ▼

David Bianco, M.A. teaches gay and lesbian history at the Institute of Gay and Lesbian Education in West Hollywood. The author of *Modern Jewish History for Everyone*, he can be reached care of this publication or through his E-mail address: AriBianco@aol.com.

E. Bay picket

◀ page 21

aware of the issues, but that "it's harder to make old buildings work." He was referring to state regulations concerning the use of hospital space, and a waiver to change the upstairs in-patient ward to an out-patient ward.

Iversen calls that a stall tactic and said that in December 1995, another clinic at Fairmont was moved in two days.

"That's when they promised the AIDS Clinic they'd move," Iversen told the B.A.R.

Staff at the clinic, which currently serves 301 AIDS patients, wrote a memo to Smart last week outlining their concerns with the situation.

"As we continue to add services such as psychological and substance abuse counseling, dietitian consultation, clinical research, and acupuncture to our standard med-

ical, nursing, and social work services, the lack of adequate space becomes an ever-more pressing concern," stated staff in their memo. "Concerns about airborne diseases such as TB [tuberculosis] mandate that we have available private rooms. ..."

At press time, Iversen was scheduled to meet with East Bay Assemblyman Don Perata to discuss AIDS issues in general; the Fairmont clinic is sure to be mentioned. Additionally, Iversen said he has learned that hospital administrators have mentioned June 1 as the earliest possible date the clinic could be relocated.

"On Monday, June 2, we'll be back to celebrate or demonstrate," Iversen promised. "Given the county's track record, it's likely to be demonstrate." ▼

For more information about ACT UP/East Bay, call (510) 568-1680.

Prevention

◀ page 20

agencies.

Also at Thursday's meeting, Kathleen Roe of the council's evaluation team urged members to begin completing community outreach forms, so they can hear the community's concerns.

Roe said the link between the HPPC and the community wasn't as explicit as it could have been last year, both "from the council to the community and [taking] the community's concerns back to the council."

She added that the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the council's funding authority, mandated the formation of an ongoing evaluation process for the council.

Goldstein said she'd like to see the council spend time talking about the quality of prevention efforts.

"We've never had that discussion," she said. ▼

The HPPC's next meeting is Thursday, March 6 from 3 to 6 p.m. at First Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin Street, at Geary.

BAY AREA REPORTER
CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 210709

The following person(s) are doing business as THE KINSEY SICKS, 355 Arguello Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94118: Irwin E. Keller, 355 Arguello Blvd., San Francisco, CA 94118; Jerome Friedman, 71 Prosper Street, San Francisco, CA 94114; Maurice Kelly, 4517 18th Street, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Jan. 9, 1997. This business is conducted by a general partnership. Signed Irwin E. Keller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 16, 1997.
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 210797

The following person(s) are doing business as ENTERTAINMENT SPORT ARTS, 2234 Judah St., San Francisco, CA 94122: Helen Klepatsky, 2234 Judah St., San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Jan. 21, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Klepatsky. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 21, 1997.
Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 210847

The following person(s) are doing business as TURNER BARRITT, 2927 Moraga St., San Francisco, CA 94122: Jim Ferguson, 2928 Moraga St., San Francisco, CA 94122. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Jan. 22, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Irwin E. Keller. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 22, 1997.
Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 1997.

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 188357

The following person has abandoned the use of the fictitious business known as MASKS BY ROJO, 117 Lexington #3, San Francisco, CA 94110. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on July 28, 1994.

Name and Address of registrant: ANDRES H. ROJO, 117 Lexington #3, San Francisco, CA 94110. This business was conducted by an individual.

Signed: ANDRES ROJO. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of San Francisco County on the San Francisco County on the date January 15, 1997. Gregory J. Diaz, County Clerk Recorder, by Keith Wong.
Jan. 30, Feb. 6, 13, 20, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211091

The following person(s) are doing business as CITY GIFTS, 2744 Hyde St., San Francisco, CA 94109: Julio E. Herrera, 2391 Bryant St., San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Feb. 3, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Julio E. Herrera. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 3, 1997.
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211098

The following person(s) are doing business as D.C.H. PRODUCTIONS, 25 Noe St. #1, San Francisco, CA 94114: Drew Christian Holweger, 25 Noe St. #1, San Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Jan. 30, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Drew Holweger. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 30, 1997.
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211000

The following person(s) are doing business as MAIDENSTONE ENTERPRISES, 3845 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94131: Geoffrey King, 3845 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94131; Jana King, 3845 Cesar Chavez St., San Francisco, CA 94131. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed Jana King. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 28, 1997.
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 210907

The following person(s) are doing business as GOLDEN TOUCH CLEANING SERVICES, 2390 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94110: Guiselle Mendieta, 80 Ellington Ave., San Francisco, CA 94112. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of Jan. 23, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Guiselle Mendieta. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on January 23, 1997.
Feb. 6, 13, 20, 27, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211215

The following person(s) are doing business as DAYNE ENTERPRISES, 1407 Sanchez Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010; Eric William Jones, 1407 Sanchez Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010; Valerie Taylor-Jones, 1407 Sanchez Ave., Burlingame, CA 94010. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by a husband and wife. Signed Eric Jones. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 4, 1997.
Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 984517

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of WALTER EUGENE KILLEEN, JR. for change of name. The application of WALTER EUGENE KILLEEN, JR. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that WALTER EUGENE KILLEEN, JR. has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to DABALT. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department K-4 on the 13th day of March, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for

change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 6th day of February, 1997.
Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME FILE NO. 984546

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO, in the matter of the application of LAWRENCE JACK MURPHY for change of name. The application of LAWRENCE JACK MURPHY for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that LAWRENCE JACK MURPHY has filed an application proposing that HIS name be changed to JACK MURPHY. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department K-4 on the 27th day of March, 1997, at 9 o'clock AM, of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the BAY AREA REPORTER, a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once a week for four consecutive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 7th day of February, 1997.

Feb. 13, 20, 27, March 6, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211386

The following person(s) are doing business as COMMONWEALTH PROPERTIES, 11 Commonwealth Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118: David Alan Suzuki, 11 Commonwealth Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94118. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed David Alan Suzuki. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 10, 1997.
Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211427

The following person(s) are doing business as ROB'S CLEANING SERVICE, 584 Castro St., Suite #395, San Francisco, CA 94114: Robert P. Fremin, 135 Gardenside Dr., #110, San Francisco, CA 94131. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of February 11, 1997. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Robert P. Fremin. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 11, 1997.
Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 1997.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 211422

The following person(s) are doing business as AFFILIATED LINENS SERVICE, 25 Poncetia Dr. #130, Daly City, CA 94015: Waleed Ahmad Albawayah, 25 Poncetia Dr. #130, Daly City, CA 94015. Registrant(s) commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date of N/A. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Waleed Albawayah. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA on February 11, 1997.
Feb. 20, 27, March 6, 13, 1997.



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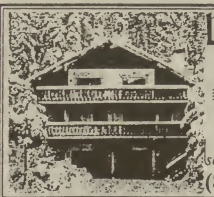
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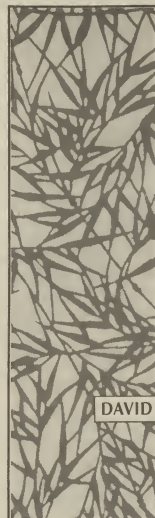
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Mama Cass' legacy is more than one hit and a ham sandwich.

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Cris Williamson and Tret Fure 23 years after 'Changer.'

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

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Marc Geller

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Movies, TV, record execs beckon **Lea DeLaria**, the queen of 'clitzpah'

by Chad Jones

As far as big, butch dykes in the mainstream go, there's no one quite like Lea DeLaria. Known primarily as an in-your-face stand-up comic, DeLaria has begun to emerge as one of the most prominent, proudly out entertainers in the country. With a host of high-profile television appearances — on hits like NBC's *Friends* and ABC's *The Drew Carey Show* — and bit parts in movies like last year's mega-hit *The First Wives Club*, DeLaria has achieved a celebrity status that other talents would kill for, but which she modestly calls "medium famous."

DeLaria, who called San Francisco home for many years after relocating from her hometown of St. Louis, is in town performing her new stand-up comedy and be-bop jazz music show *Box Lunch* at Josie's Cabaret. Though she barely has time to turn around, the comic recently took time out from her busy schedule to wisecrack her way through an interview.

"Nobody, including me, guessed that I'd make a career in stand-up comedy," she recalls. "I was seriously into theater, play writing, directing. Stand-up comedy was a lark, a joke, a dare from some friends. It was me saying, 'Yeah, maybe I could do that.' Then boom."

That was nearly 15 years ago. In April 1982, DeLaria stepped onto the stage of San Francisco's Valencia Rose, and seven months later she quit her day job working on an all-gay construction crew restoring Victorians. She has made her living entirely from performing ever since. Her big break came in 1993, when she appeared on *The Arsenia Hall Show*, thus becoming the first openly gay comic to appear on national television. That appearance generated tremendous interest in DeLaria as both a comic and an actor.

What may surprise some who know DeLaria solely for her outrageous comedic persona, is that she is also an accomplished jazz musician. In fact,

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Flesh and blood

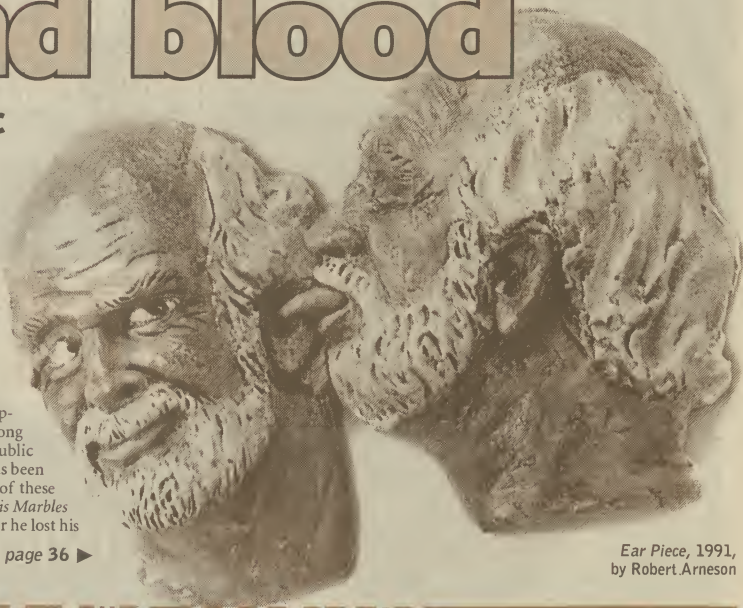
Visceral imagery and artistic courage at **SFMOMA**

by Roberto Friedman

Three shows have opened at once at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and although they are wildly disparate in content, all three speak volumes about art's greatest subject, the human condition. The genius of the late Bay Area artist Robert Arneson shines through in an exhibition of self-portraits in ceramics, bronze and works on paper; Seydou Keita, a West-African photographer, is the subject of the museum's first one-man exhibition of an African artist; and Kara Walker, a young African-American artist who is currently hot in the rarefied world of contemporary art, has her first solo museum show on the West Coast.

Robert Arneson is probably best-known for witty and whimsical ceramic sculptures such as *California Artist*, a portrait of the artist as a pothead which has long been a highlight of the SFMOMA collection. While Arneson met the glare of public scrutiny for his bust of assassinated Mayor George Moscone, self-portraiture has been his powerful obsession. *Robert Arneson: Self-Reflections* presents an overview of these works chronologically, starting with his 1965 *Self-Portrait of the Artist Losing His Marbles* and ending with his difficult and grim *Chemo 1* and *Chemo 2* from 1992, the year he lost his 20-year battle with cancer.

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Ear Piece, 1991, by Robert Arneson

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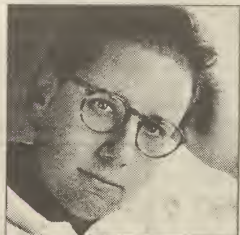
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OUT THERE

by Chris Culwell
and Pithy Galore

Mark your calendars, people. According to the February 14 *Hollywood Reporter*, April 30 — the first Wednesday of the May sweeps — is the day *Ellen* will come out of the closet as a lesbian on *Ellen*. Rumors are flying that the episode will feature **Oprah Winfrey** as the therapist who brings *Ellen* to her life-changing realization, though variations on this story suggest the part will be played by everyone from **Barbra Streisand** to **Dr. Ruth** to **Martina Navratilova**. We don't care who plays the part, as long as it's not **Chastity Bono**.

If *Ellen* does come out on the 30th, we hope it won't be merely a prelude to the show's cancellation (its ratings have sunk); and that if the gay theme is developed, DeGeneres won't disgrace herself and all of queerdom by limiting the part to the whining emotional incompetent *Ellen* has thus far been. Remember, folks, that's how folks in Peoria prefer us — debilitated and ineffectual. And if DeGeneres can't manage more than her usual contorted eye-twisting and adolescent tergiversating, then why do homosexuals need her? It's bad advertising on a large scale.



David Leavitt

Cowed by Chrysler

For those homosexuals out there who read *Esquire* magazine and drive Chryslers, listen up: *Esquire*'s editors last week killed a short story by queer novelist **David Leavitt** just as the issue containing the story was going to press, and now the author's agent is charging homophobic censorship.

A source at the monthly magazine told the *New York Post* that Chrysler Motors Corp. threatened to pull its ads for a year if *Esquire* published Leavitt's "The Term Paper Artist," a reportedly uncensored tale about a college professor who assists hunky male students with their schoolwork in exchange for sex.

Esquire's editor-in-chief **Edward Kosner** told the *Post* that his decision wasn't about advertising and that "from the begin-

ning, there were people who liked the story and an equal number who didn't."

Chrysler's Executive Director of Corporate Marketing **James Julow** told the *Post*, "We're not in the business of making editorial suggestions to magazines," but he did point out that Chrysler Corp. has a list of editorial guidelines that prohibits such things as "sexual activity or how it is displayed." Julow told the *Post*, "We're not in

favor of graphic depiction of sexual activity of any orientation."

Leavitt's agent, **Andrew Wylie**, said, "I'm speechless. Since when is Chrysler in the homophobia business? They should be hung out to dry." Leavitt, always the drama queen, is reportedly

"too stunned" for comment.

Miramax cleans up

Oscar had good news for Miramax Films last week when it announced nominees for the 69th Academy Awards. The New York-based film company garnered a total of 20 nominations, including 12 — the most for one film this year — for the romantic epic *The English Patient*. The film company's Oscar nominations also included two for the Southern Gothic tale *Sling Blade* (which features **John Ritter** as a queen) and its multi-talented writer, director and star, **Billy Bob Thornton**; a best actress nomination for former Academy-Award winner **Diane Keaton** in *Marvin's Room*; two nominations for *Emma*; and one each for *Kolya*, *Ridicule* and *Trainspotting*.

With its 12 nominations, *The English Patient* broke the company record previously held by *The Piano*, which earned eight nominations from the Academy in 1993. The **Saul Zaentz**-produced *Patient* is the fifth consecutive Miramax film to be nominated for Best Picture, following *The Crying Game*, *The Piano*, *Pulp Fiction*, and *The Postman*.

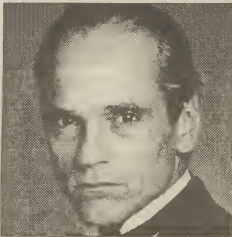
Taylor's tumor

The big news emerging from **Elizabeth Taylor**'s celebrity birthday bash last weekend isn't that the actress is turning 64 but that the Hollywood legend has a brain tumor. Furthermore, a British tabloid reports that even though doctors told the star she has nothing to fear, Taylor is so worried about the future that she's assembled a team of lawyers to help her write up her will. That's apparently no small task, as she is reportedly worth somewhere between \$300 and \$600 million, though nobody knows for sure how much.

Rumor has it that ever since word of the Taylor bequeathal hit the streets, people from far and wide who have ever had even the slightest interaction with the star

have been calling, sending flowers, writing letters, and showing up outside the actress' Beverly Hills mansion to remind her that they once met in a studio, in the emergency room of the Betty Ford Clinic, or at a pizza parlor in Venice. Fearful that her inability to recall these acquaintances is a sign of mental deterioration, Taylor has locked herself in her mansion and turned off the phone.

Many benefactors are reportedly named in Liz's codicil, everyone from Liz's favorite **chocolatier** to **Nancy Reagan** to **Michael Jackson**'s monkey, **Cornelius**. One person whose name isn't mentioned, however, is former hubby **Larry Fortensky**, whom Taylor met and fell in love with when the two were drying out several years ago at the Betty Ford Clinic. Larry apparently crossed Liz one too many times.



Jeremy Irons

Lo-down on 'Lolita'

The current issue of *Esquire* — yes, the magazine whose editors are easily cowed by corporate interests — carries a feature about **Adrian Lyne's Lolita**, the forever-in-limbo remake of Stanley Kubrick's film based on **Vladimir Nabokov's** classic tale of a wretched poet who lusts after a teenage girl. The film, which stars newcomer **Dominique Swain** as sexy young *Lo* and **Jeremy Irons** as lecherous *Humbert Humbert*, still has no distributor and may end up going to HBO.

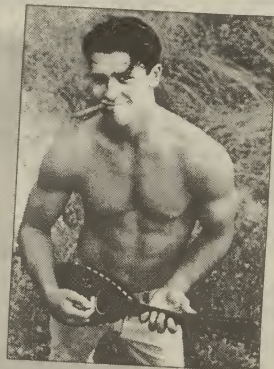
What's wrong with the film? Journalist **Elizabeth Kaye** doesn't say so in explicit terms but suggests that distributors are in fear mode after media mogul **Ted Turner** pulled the dump mechanism last year on *Bastard Out of Carolina*, which explicitly examines a victim of sexual child abuse, and **David Cronenberg's Crash**, a disturbingly real look at people who are sexually aroused by car crashes and their maimed victims.

"If I were doing a movie about a 13-year-old getting chopped up by cannibals," Lyne was quoted saying to a British journalist, "there'd be no problem. The film will be a great success if people can get past the subject matter."

Irons, by the way, was not Lyne's first pick for *Humbert Humbert*. **Anthony Hopkins** and **Hugh Grant** were the director's first choices, though Lyne admitted Grant was "too young for the part." ▼

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Frenetic fiddling

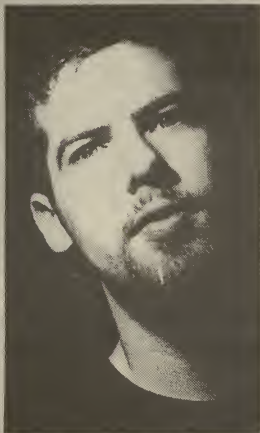
by Adrian Roberts

Glendon McKinney, editor of the Toronto-based Ashley MacIsaac fanzine, *King of the Fairies*, has called the 22-year-old gay fiddler "one of the best things to happen in the Canadian music scene in years." And after just one listen to MacIsaac's 1995 major label debut, *Hi™ How Are You Today?*, one gets the impression that this glowing assessment is hardly empty praise.

By combining traditional Celtic fiddling with modern rock sounds, MacIsaac has fashioned himself an anomaly: a mostly-instrumental record that ends up in the "world music" bins at record stores but sounds more "alternative" than most of today's grunge-rock posers. Take the single "Sleepy Maggie," for instance, which mixes MacIsaac's frenetic fiddling with soulful dance rhythms, while Mary Jane Lamond sings a Gaelic tune on top. Then there's "Rusty D-con-STRUCK-tion," which sounds something like "Celtic grunge," as if there were such a thing.

Although MacIsaac is most interesting when he's genre-mixing, he seems to have some reverence for traditional standards, as demonstrated by the plangent "Sad Wedding Day" and the fiddle frenzy of "The Devil In The Kitchen," a live favorite. A compelling performer, MacIsaac puts on one hell of a show. You probably didn't know Gaelic music could be this much fun. ▼

Ashley MacIsaac plays at 9 p.m. this Sunday, February 23, at Slim's, 333 11th Street. Tickets are \$13. For more information, call 522-0333.



Derek Shapiro

Flesh and blood

◀ Arts cover

When Chief Curator Gary Garrels, who organized the show with Janet Bishop, visited Arneson's widow Sandra Shannonhouse and was shown the *Chemo* sculptures, he was forced to re-examine conventional thinking about Arneson's work. "It has become ever more clear to me that far beyond the marvelous humor and irony, which are so readily apparent and recognized," writes Garrels in the catalog, "the ballast of his work is no less a brooding, open-eyed stare at the existentialist condition of the human condition ... and acknowledgment that death is the one subject none of us can ultimately avoid."

That is not to say that the artist's celebrated wit and funky style are not well-represented here. Arneson broke all of the rules of ceramics and sculpture: his *Classical Sculpture* (1972) is a fairly conventional self-portrait bust, except that the subject's genitals poke out from the pedestal, and his toes protrude from its base. His self-portrait as *Clown* (1978) includes crossed eyes, an oversized red ear, and an obscenely projecting tongue. As often in Arneson's busts, the pedestal and base are surfaces to be worked over with all manner of verbal gloss and artistic hijinks. Letters stamped into *Clown*'s surface spell out "NASAL OFFICER" and "REGULAR CRACKER TO BOOT."

Most arresting is a series of double-headed reliefs (all from 1991) in which the artist's now-familiar visage is twinned with itself in startling and suggestive ways. In these works, Arneson busses himself, tongues his own ear, and in *Head Eater* even cannibalizes himself. This collection of portraits of Arneson with his doppelganger makes metaphors of self-love and self-destruction



Bamako (Mali), by Seydou Keita, 1958.

the ravages of cancer on his mind, his vision, and his physical being. Arneson holds nothing back. These final works, rarely if ever before exhibited, are testament to his courage and artistic will.

There are visceral images as well in Kara Walker's exhibition. *Kara*

logical things to each other. If ever there were an effective antidote to this culture's romanticizing of the antebellum South, Walker's art is it. Her cutouts and her watercolor series address the arena of America's greatest charge and shame, race relations.

Robert Arneson busses himself, tongues his own ear, and even cannibalizes himself. These portraits of Arneson with his doppelganger make metaphors of self-love and self-destruction eerily literal.

eerily literal.

In his later works, the mature artist contemplates the abyss, as in *Poised to Infinity*, a spire of nine self-portraits balanced atop one another in ever-receding proportion. But it is in the *Chemo* sculptures that Arneson reveals his innermost and most terrifying self-reflections. What is more private than a man's death? In detailing

Walker: *Upon My Many Masters*—An *Outline* consists of two large wall installations and suites of watercolor drawings. The wall tableaux are composed of black-paper cutout silhouettes, a medium redolent of 18th-century life and craft. The images of slave plantation life, on closer inspection, reveal Mammies and Southern belles doing violent, sexual, even scato-

Thousands of miles and a continent away, African photographer Seydou Keita found the beauty and humanity in his subjects through studio portraiture. He photographed thousands of residents of Bamako, Mali over a period of 30 years, from the late '40s through the '70s. Curator of photography Sandra S. Phillips, who devised the show, attests that "When the subjects pose in African clothes, the photographs are powerful constructions that balance shape with a radiating intensity of abstract design worthy of Matisse." It is true that these approximately 40 black-and-white photographs are composed with a true aesthete's eye. But they are equally fascinating as a portrait of a time and place, of an array of individuals whose culture may be light years from ours, but whose pleasure in themselves, their appearance, and their beautiful accouterments point to our common humanity. ▼

Robert Arneson: Self-Reflections and Kara Walker: Upon My Many Masters—An Outline remain on view through May 13; Seydou Keita stays up through June 3, at the San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, 151 3rd Street. Call 357-4000 for information.

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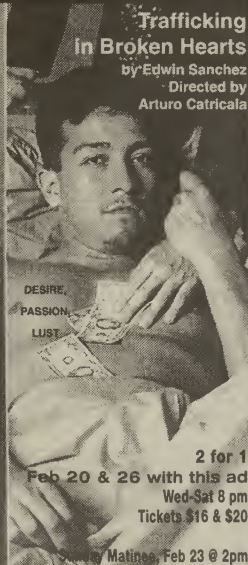
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True grit

Bob Rafelson's 'Blood and Wine'

by Gary Morris

Bob Rafelson's superb *Blood and Wine* is the latest in a loosely related series of films that began with *Five Easy Pieces* (1970) and continued with *The King of Marvin Gardens* (1972) and *The Postman Always Rings Twice* (1981). Each of these films features Rafelson veteran Jack Nicholson as a loser, sometimes violent, sometimes withdrawn, but always alienated from himself and those around him. In *Blood and Wine*, Alex Gates (Nicholson) is a self-assured, well-off wine merchant who dresses impeccably and drives a red BMW convertible. But the pretty picture he presents shows cracks almost immediately. A bickering relationship with his wife Suzanne (Judy Davis) and stepson Jason (Stephen Dorff) points to deeper problems. Suzanne walks with a cane due to a broken leg, and it's hinted that her husband, a womanizer, may be responsible. Alex himself is a thief who's involved with a smarmy safe-cracker named Victor Spansky (Michael Caine), who helps him steal a million-dollar necklace from one of his wealthy clients.

The King of Marvin Gardens and *Postman* are based on the fantasy of attaining instant wealth, either through entrepreneurship or violence. In *Blood and Wine*, Alex combines these qualities in a '90s embodiment of the privileged male whose greed has virtually bankrupted him and forced him into criminal activities in order to keep up the fiction of success. He wants the "good life" whether or not he can afford it. Typical of Rafelson's characters, the otherwise savvy Alex is blind to the improbability of getting away with his act.

The plot kicks into high gear when Suzanne discovers his plan to go to New York with his latest mistress, Gabriella (Jennifer Lopez). A violent fight ensues, and Suzanne manages to beat him unconscious with her cane. She quickly repacks his suitcase, unaware of the necklace hidden inside, grabs her son, and disappears in the backwaters of Florida. Meanwhile, Jason begins an affair with Gabriella, unaware that she is his stepfather's girlfriend.

The film soon becomes a grim cat-and-mouse game, with Alex and the asthmatic Victor pursuing Suzanne and Jason in order to retrieve the necklace; Jason playing Alex and Victor off one another while trying to save his mother; and Gabriella torn between Jason and Alex.

Rafelson excels at visualizing the damage people who are somehow linked do to each other. This link doesn't have to be a blood tie — Jason is only Alex's stepson, but their ever-accelerating confrontations end in extremely brutal violence. Alex and Victor are nominal partners, but that doesn't stop them from trying to kill each other in a gruesomely graphic sequence. Alex's relationship with Suzanne is equally bloody, the logical end of the tortured affairs in *Five Easy Pieces* and *The King of Marvin Gardens*.

Rafelson is known as an "actor's director," and the performances here are uniformly strong. Nicholson, for the first time in recent memory, is forced to emote

rather than mug, meaning that he never lapses into those tiresome trademark "look-at-me" grins. His Alex is a worthy successor to his earlier Rafelson characters. Judy Davis gives a dead-on impersonation of a jittery, battered wife, particularly in her heated confrontations with Nicholson.

Lopez's Gabriella, not because of Lopez but because the part is underwritten.

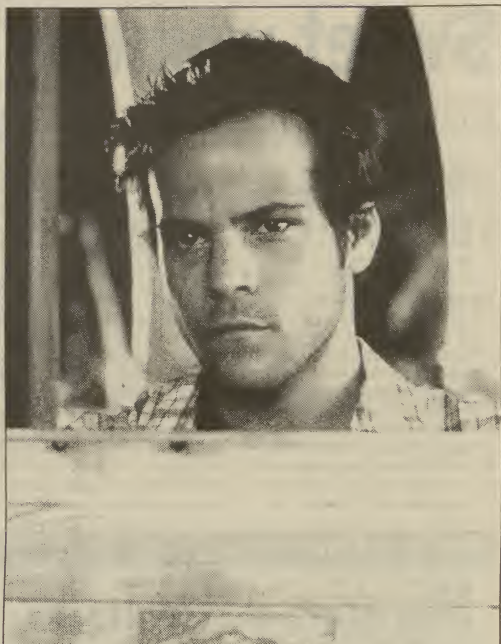
The sheer volume of violence in *Blood and Wine* de-emphasizes Rafelson's earlier European-style existentialism in favor of a more commercial, but still striking, approach. Rootless characters like

Rafelson excels at visualizing the damage that people who are linked do to each other.

Michael Caine is suitably unappealing as a cynical, strong but sickly thief with a dribbling fake moustache and plastered-down hair. Stephen Dorff holds his own with the veterans around him; it's hard to believe this hunky boy played Candy Darling in last year's *I Shot Andy Warhol*. The only disappointment is Jennifer

Lopez continue to stumble blindly through their lives, perhaps more aware of the forces that drive them but still unable to control them. ▼

Blood and Wine opens in general release on Friday, February 21.



Stephen Dorff as Jason in Bob Rafelson's *Blood and Wine*.

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Sweet women

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure

by Deborah Peifer

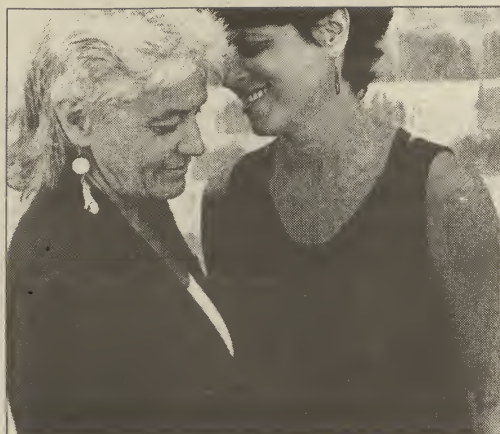
It's doubtful that there is a lesbian alive who does not remember where she was — and with whom — the first time she heard Cris Williamson sing "Sweet Woman." My own most vivid memory is of being at a Williamson concert several years ago. When she sang the soaring opening notes, the lesbians in that audience went into emotional, sensual, and sexual melt-down. And "Sweet Woman" was only one of the ten electrifying tracks on that breakthrough album, *The Changer and the Changed*. Re-

leased a mere five years after Stonewall, *Changer* celebrated women and their loving in a way that has never been matched. In fact, when Williamson's name is mentioned, the immediate identification is with *Changer*, still one of the most successful women's music albums ever produced. Williamson has not, however, been resting on the extraordinary laurels of that recording. In the 23 years since *Changer*, Williamson has gone on to record 14 more albums, been honored with a Parent's Choice Award (for her children's album, *Lumiere*), Cable Car Awards (for outstanding performance in 1983 and 1990), and

most recently, the first Michael Callen Award for outstanding service to the gay and lesbian community. In addition to all that, she has also managed to sustain a 15-year personal and professional partnership with singer/songwriter Tret Fure, who has five solo albums of her own to boast about in addition to the one she has made with Williamson, *Postcards from Paradise*.

Williamson and Fure are currently touring the U.S. in conjunction with the release of their newest album, *Between the Covers*. With love songs written and performed by both women, *Between the Covers* is a celebration of love that fills the heart with delight. I had a chance to speak telephonically with both singers recently — not my first three-way, but certainly the most entertaining. My first question had to do with their enduring partnership. How does it all work after 15 years? "It's just always worked for us," Fure explains. "We realized from the get-go that we shared many things. Cris brought me onstage as an opening act, and then we started to perform as a duo. We've never had ego conflicts because we're whole people. We've never been threatened by each other's talent. We're best friends, and we laugh every day."

I wondered if Williamson has ever been frustrated by the tendency of some fans to think that *Changer* is her only album. "Frustrated? No. I think of their reaction as a gift," the singer says. "There is an almost jewel-like reverence about this album; it's fought over in divorces. But people make it a classic. This album has a life of its own apart from me, so I'm free to let people love it all they want. [*Changer*] has helped lots of women in compressed places break free. But I don't have to be forced as an artist to do old material. My job is to grow and get better."



Cris Williamson and Tret Fure

REVIEW

Murmurs of the heart

by Deborah Peifer

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure singing love songs to each other — what could be better than that? Well, okay, Chris and Tret singing love songs to me. But that's not going to happen, so let me just say that *Between the Covers* is glorious. The music is rich and abundant and both Williamson and Fure are in fine voice, their poetic artistry and musical skills unmatched. Fure especially has a real gift for capturing the poetry of the everyday. In her delightful "Oh Mary, Mary," she recounts the wonders of her beloved, who is "like clean new sheets ... You are the evening news/ You are my best new shoes/ You are an ocean cruise." I asked Fure about this song, and she said she wrote it when "Cris was away and I was really missing her. I started to list all the things she meant to me, and there was the song. Composting — that's how I write. I collect valuable things to make more beauty in the world."

The two women collaborated on several songs, including the engaging "Please Say," which expresses the frustration that comes from not finding the right words: "Baby, what I feel for you/ Could bring a poet to her knees/ And beg the skies for mercy." Williamson's haunting title song "Between the Covers" is breathtakingly evocative of the sensuality of love, while "Invocation" is an empowering assertion of the power of music and love.

I could go on, but the magic of this album is beyond my ability to capture in mere words. Filled with the joy that real love engenders, *Between the Covers* is a celebration of life. It's also loads of fun to listen to, if you're in love or just wish you were. ▼

In 1991, Williamson and Fure founded In the Best Interests of Children, a volunteer-based pediatric AIDS organization. Their efforts led to the establishment of Camp Colors, a family day camp for kids with HIV/AIDS, and Health Jam, an information network for teenagers. The all-volunteer effort meant that the parent organization had a limited life, but that the programs ITBIC started would continue. "We're hoping," Williamson explains, "that if people feel the need for this, the community will start their own organization. It's important that we see that AIDS wears a different face in the world, and that's the face of a child. We also see AIDS as an important women's health issue."

As pioneers in so-called "women's music," Williamson and Fure have been pigeonholed as "for women only" by the very women who love their work. They became a well-kept secret. Williamson insists that "we are a secret to be shared. Everyone is welcome at our concerts. People want to keep us in

a closet, but we want to share our art with the world. Let us as women learn generosity, play the card of grace. Everyone writes from a personal place, but then we have to extend it to others. Music is like water — it should be available to anyone who is thirsty. People cling to the closet; they don't know what it's like to be free. We can offer a sense of the open heart, of flying, of true love, of love that is active, not passive."

What comes across in a conversation with Williamson and Fure is the love they feel for each other, and the joy that love brings to both. "You have to wake up," Williamson exclaims. "Love is alive and afoot in the world." ▼

Cris Williamson and Tret Fure perform at Freight & Salvage in Berkeley on March 5; call (510)-548-1761 for tickets. They're also appearing at Sisterspirit in San Jose on March 8 (7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m.); call (408)-293-9372 for tickets.

THEATRE

Virgin machine

by Jerry Metzker

One-person shows are rarely successful because everything must revolve around a single performer, who, even though he/she is usually creating the proverbial "range of characters," isn't interesting enough to carry a whole show. This is not the case with Andrew Nance, who never fails to be anything but compelling in Colin Martin's one-person *Virgins and Other Myths*, the latest in the New Conservatory Theatre's Gay Pride series. Under the careful direction of Ed Decker, Nance turns in one of his most remarkable, finely nuanced performances yet.

Martin's show revolves around a man — also named Colin — whose attempts to understand his own complicated gay libido take him on a slow descent into sexual compulsion. It's a gradual revelation of a character whose psyche has been shaped by aspects of his own personality as well as by external circumstances. Along the way, Nance introduces the audience to characters from his past, among them a doctor who tells him he has AIDS, another doctor who says the diagnosis was wrong, a teacher who molested him as a child, and people who paid him for sex.

Nance's portrait reveals how each step of Colin's descent is taken with the knowledge gained from the previous step, and in doing so, gives his performance a depth often lacking in works like this. And though Nance is saddled with the unenviable task of portraying a host of characters — from a ghastly apparition to a patronizing kindergarten teacher, as well as Colin from age five into adulthood — Nance goes beyond mere crowd control to achieve some startling characterizations. *Virgins and Other Myths* is well worth seeing. ▼

Virgins and Other Myths continues at the New Conservatory Theatre through March 15. Call 861-8972.



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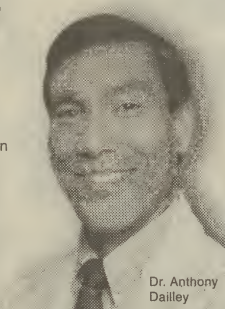


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MUSIC

Reunion

SF Symphony, MTT together again

by Timothy Pfaff

Michael Tilson Thomas and the San Francisco Symphony returned to work last Wednesday at Davies Symphony Hall, thus ending a 67-day strike, the longest work stoppage in the organization's history. Those who attended the concert with hopes of gleaning some perhaps sensational insight into the state of the orchestra and its conductor were most likely disappointed, as Wednesday's performance was strictly business as usual. Fortunately, what counts as business as usual under SF Symphony Music Director Michael Tilson Thomas is top-flight music-making, often in interesting and unusual repertoire.

With little or no fanfare, Tilson Thomas mounted the podium to lead a consistently satisfying and frequently electrifying account of J.S. Bach's *Magnificat in D* and Igor Stravinsky's rarely encountered *Perséphone*. Things could have been worse, and very nearly were.

Had the increasingly acrimonious strike not reached a shrill crescendo in the weeks before the February 9 settlement, BMG Classics might not have "indefinitely" postponed plans to record *Perséphone* live for a CD release (it was to be coupled with last fall's live recording of Stravinsky's *Rite of Spring*). That the project has been shelved is a pity, since Tilson Thomas has assembled the ideal forces with which to realize the piece, which, judging from last Friday's repeat performance, had assumed a force and integrity surpassing that of *The Rite*. That

missed opportunity, however, is just one of several casualties of what has turned out to be the longest strike in Bay Area musical history.

Now that the dust has settled, it's possible to assess the fruits — if any — of the strike. For the musicians, the gains are quantifiable. Base salaries for the new three-year contract period were raised to \$1,490 per week for the first year, \$1,545 for the second, and \$1,580 for the third. Minimum orchestra size was increased from 101 to 103 players. And, after the most difficult wrangling of the strike's first phase, the musicians secured a satisfactory new medical benefits package through Health Net.

Symphony management won two additional Sunday matinee concerts next season, but at a considerable price. Issues of scheduling and work load, both for tours

and subscription events, proved the sticking points of the strike's dog days, and while both sides can claim victories, the compromises come at what all involved deem giant steps backwards in musician-management relations and morale on both sides.

In return for assuming these burdens, Symphony management got two more Sunday matinees next season and the musicians a guarantee of revolving seating for all string players, which they hope will reduce the number of injuries during concentrated playing periods. Clearly, bridge building seems more urgent than ever before.

Fortunately, low morale was nowhere in evidence when the musicians returned to their chairs Wednesday. A few lax lips in the brass section hobbled much of the prominent music in the big outer choruses of the *Magnificat*, but the problem seemed to right itself by Friday, when the estimable first trumpet, Glenn Fischthal, and his colleagues dispatched their fanfares impeccably and with brio.

Bach is hardly a composer associated with Tilson Thomas, but the *Magnificat* — a favorite of the conductor's mentor, Leonard Bernstein — is a piece he comes by honestly and interprets with originality and deep musical understanding. Bach was characteristically resourceful in setting the text of the *Magnificat*, Tilson Thomas characteristically insightful and spontaneous in rendering it.

Although small differences distinguished Wednesday's performance from Friday's, in both the sequence of the three final choruses was particularly powerful. Friday, the ethereal "Suscepit



Stravinsky by Antonio Sotomayor.

From SPALM'S "Images of the Arts"

Israel" hovered magically, the "Sicut locutus est" fugue seemed built of layers of rock, and the "Gloria Patri" was expressed in a joyous acceleration. The final "Sicut erat" came as an exuberant release from the sense of propulsion the work as a whole had attained.

Tenor Toby Spence and bass

Richard Zeller made sturdy contributions, but the solo honors went to the women. Getting a soprano of Rebecca Evans' quality for a single aria may represent Tilson Thomas' luxury casting as its most extravagant, but Evans earned her fee with a radiant "Quia resipit" — all three minutes of it.

Lorraine Hunt, doubling second soprano and alto solos, brought a broader palette of vocal colors and emotions to two arias and a duet than many a singer brings to an entire operatic role. Her contribution to the "Et misericordia" duet had the depth one has come to expect of this treasureable singer, and her "Esurientes" seemed almost playful in its realization of rapturous wonder.

Vance George's Symphony Chorus trumpeted its own success in the *Magnificat* with a show-stealing performance in Stravinsky's

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Lorraine Hunt

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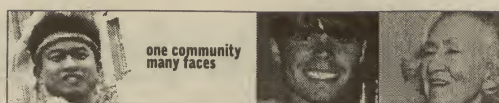
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Lea DeLaria

◀ Arts cover

in *Box Lunch* DeLaria performs several classic numbers of the bebop tradition of the '40s and '50s, songs like "Lady Be Good," "Hush Now, Don't Explain," and "Cottontail." The comedian's way with a song is so convincing that Rising Star Records has signed DeLaria to a three-record deal. The first of the three, *Box Lunch*, is being recorded live at Josie's during the current run. And this summer, DeLaria will go into the studio to begin work on an all-jazz CD that will culminate in a tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. "I'm going to cover Ella's version of 'How High the Moon' from the *Ella Live In Berlin* album," DeLaria explains. "It's a classic piece of scat, and I'm learning it note for note, the way a horn player learns classic horn solos. As far as I know, no one has ever attempted it. I guess nobody else had the chutzpah — or the clutzpah — so I'm goin' for it."

When she's not busy doing stand-up and making music, DeLaria is usually working in the movies. In her latest film, an independent feature called *Homo Heights*, she co-stars with Quentin Crisp and plays, believe it or not, the quieter romantic lead. "The producers wanted me for a comedy role, but I suggested that I play the romantic lead, which is kind of a Warren Beatty-like womanizer, liar, cheat, thief kind of role," she says. The movie, which is still in post production, should be out in time for the Lesbian and Gay Film Festival in June.

In the meantime, DeLaria is racing from project to project. She and writing partner Maggie Casella are adapting Leslie Feinberg's novel *Stone Butch Blues* for the screen. The first draft is complete, and the writers are now arguing with the producers. Meanwhile, the actor's own film script, *Liar, Cheat, Shrew, Thief*, in which DeLaria plays the lead, is in development with Canada's Fabulous Productions. The film goes into production at the end of the year. Yet another film project, *Saxophone*, is currently in the writing



Marc Geller

Lea: nothing pisses her off more than "white people with dreadlocks."

phase. Whatever she ends up doing in the world of film, DeLaria says she's not about to give up her "day job," stand-up comedy.

With a squadron of agents representing her at each film studio, each network, and in each comedy circuit, it's not likely that DeLaria will soon stop working. Aside from guest spots on shows like *Saved by the Bell* (she played a gym teacher) and Andy Griffith's *Matlock*, DeLaria has also hosted a cooking show on the Food Network. "How hilarious is that?" she queries. Although the producers cut some of her political and sexual humor from the final broadcast, they did leave in a fisting joke DeLaria cracked while holding a chicken. She believes the joke, which made references to Newt Gingrich, was left in because the producers had no idea that fisting wasn't a cooking term.

Outspoken

DeLaria is more than medium famous in England, where she has recently appeared in a documentary about why Jodie Foster is a lesbian idol. "Why wouldn't she be my question?" DeLaria counters. The show was such a hit that Britain's Channel 4 has approached her about hosting the last episode in its forthcoming series on the seven deadly sins.

It isn't lost on DeLaria that in Europe she's talking about lust while in the States she's doing *Matlock*. "America is so far behind Europe when it comes to gays and lesbians on television," DeLaria says. "TV here is run by straight, conservative white men. That's why — and mark my words — Ellen DeGeneres' character will not come out of the closet. I find the whole thing repulsive. It's so duplicitous to just grab the money and attention this way. It's not being done to further the cause of the lesbian and gay community. If it was, then Ellen DeGeneres herself would come out of the closet. This is pabulum, faux marble. It's having a vagina and eating it too."

Not one to mince words, DeLaria has strong opinions about the gay and lesbian community and the current state of queer life. "If we spent half the time we're spending yelling at each other yelling at the powers-that-be, we'd have

had our rights years ago," she says. "The problem comes in saying we're a community. We're a coalition of like-minded individuals who want our rights. Once you start talking about anything other than gay rights — anything — then you have trouble, infighting and eye-scratching."

"It's monstrous that we have big events like the March on Washington or Stonewall and then don't do anything with them," DeLaria continues. "We're all here, let's get an agenda. The radical fuckin' right has an agenda, and believe me, we're on it, so we need to get together and get past the bitching and fighting that has turned us not into a community but sectioned-off individuals who don't trust each other. We do that by calling ourselves the gay, lesbian, transgender, transsexual, bibbi-de-bobbi-de-boo. We help draw the lines between each other. Words don't have meaning. It's just a name. Pick something and live with it."

The focus of DeLaria's considerable wrath isn't just trained on the queer community's minutiae editors. She has plenty of other pet peeves, for instance, white people with dreadlocks. "That's goin' up my ass about a mile right now," she says. "I see 'em and I want to throw 'em a quarter and say, buy a culture!" The other thing that sets her off is the lesbian thriller movie *Bound*. "To me, it's just like the blackploitation movies of the '70s," she explains. "Here's a movie written, produced and directed by white, straight men and completely cast with straight women. I have a problem with that because my life is being written about by people who know absolutely nothing about my life, and the movie is being held up as a great lesbian story by the gay and lesbian community. Once again this is us shooting ourselves in the foot."

There are some things in life, however, that bring DeLaria unadulterated pleasure. "I really like that girls are wearing tight clothes again," she says with a big smile. "I also get extreme pleasure from [singer] Lisa Loeb. She's just fine. I'm objectifying her in a big, bad way, but she's duin' me in right now. Same thing for the Jewel

next page ▶

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THEATRE

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A.C.T.'s
'Machinal'

by Chad Jones

Watching the American Conservatory Theatre's current production of *Machinal*, the expressionistic 1928 play by Sophie Treadwell, is a little like watching a museum display come to life. The production itself has much to recommend it: fine direction by Laird Williamson, a handsome period design by Ralph Funicello, and strong performances. But Treadwell's play — well ahead of its time 70 years ago — about the first woman executed in New York's electric chair is more curious than compelling, more intellectual than involving.

Treadwell's insight into the dehumanizing mechanics of an industrial metropolis in a capitalist nation is potent, but her skill at conveying the drama of those caught up in the heartless machine relies more on production design than it does on her script. In the A.C.T. production, it falls to the luminous Michelle Morain to bring some humanity to the role of protagonist Helen Jones, which she does with moving sincerity.

Repressed by the economic and emotional poverty of her life, Helen falls into the pudgy arms of her boss (Matt DeCaro), who ropes her into a loveless marriage. Financial stress abated, Helen goes in search of emotional enrichment, a journey that leads her into a speakeasy and eventually into the web of a handsome stranger (sexy Mark Harelik) who will inspire Helen to commit murder and then betray her.

The scene in which Helen and

Michelle Morain and Matt DeCaro in *Machinal*.

her lover court in the dingy bar are among the most interesting pages in Treadwell's play. While the two lovers get acquainted, other bar patrons act out their own dramas: at one table, a young black couple (Michael Gene Sullivan and Velina Brown) contemplates abortion — he wants it, she doesn't, so he basically gets her drunk enough to agree with him. At another table, an artistic older man (Mark Booher) plies a sweet-faced young man (Michael DeGood) with generous sips of a fine amontillado. The language of both these side scenes is thinly veiled but direct enough subtextually to illuminate aspects of life that were anything but center stage in the '20s. The older man tempts his young companion with, "It's always down the side streets that one finds the real pleasure." To which the confused

boy replies, "I don't know." "Well, learn," the man insists.

Helen's journey from cowering insignificance to murderous release is interesting, especially in this solid production, but throughout *Machinal*'s intermissionless two hours, themes of dreary emptiness, hopeless automation, and ultimate suffocation bear down with the insistence of a jackhammer. ▼

A.C.T.'s *Machinal* continues through March 9 at the Geary Theatre. Call 749-2228 for information.



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Lea DeLaria

◀ previous page

singer of No Doubt. Every time that midriff pops out, so does my little woody.

Although she'd obviously like to have one, DeLaria doesn't have a girlfriend at the moment. She's hardly in one place long enough to develop anything resembling a human relationship. In fact, in the last six months, she's been at her Los Angeles home a total of seven days. "That's why I don't have a girlfriend — that and I don't like being tied down. I couldn't fuck as

easily, and there are entirely too many schoolgirls out there."

Almost on cue, two women walking down 16th Street see DeLaria and her coterie and shout, "Hey! It's a famous lesbian! Right on!" DeLaria is delighted with the attention and shouts back, "Nice dress!" The girls giggle, smile flirtatiously, and keep walking. A grinning DeLaria squints and mutters, "Adorable." ▼

Lea DeLaria's *Box Lunch* continues at Josie's Cabaret through February 25. Call 861-7933 for information.

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Diva gets her due

by John Blanco

Cass Elliot; *Dream a Little Dream: The Cass Elliot Collection*, MCA

It's unlikely that last year's charming junior-fag love story, *Beautiful Thing*, would have worked half as well without its soundtrack of "Mama" Cass Elliot songs. The movie's most memorable and romantic scenes—in particular Ste and Jamie's slow dance in their Council Flats' courtyard at the film's fanciful conclusion—featured Elliot's caressing pop vocals in the background.

One reason that Elliot's music and *Beautiful Thing*'s story were such a perfect fit is that the singer was the embodiment of the film's simple "be true to yourself" theme. In an era when the epitome of female beauty was über waif Twiggy, Elliot was comfortable enough with her zaftig figure to pose nude for the cameras. Musically, she was a non-conformist as well, alternating over the course of her short career between ragged blues, lush folk-rock, Vegas-y lite jazz, and bubble-gum pop.

To capitalize on the renewed interest in Elliot's music spurred by *Beautiful Thing*, MCA has released a sampler of some of her best songs, *Dream a Little Dream*:

The *Cass Elliot Collection*. Compiled by her daughter, Owen Elliot-Kugell, the CD unearths a song ("Wild Woman") by Elliot's little-known early act, The Big Three, as well as the gorgeous "Dream a Little Dream of Me," which she recorded with the band that made her famous, The Mamas and the Papas. The bulk of the record, however, sticks to the solo material the singer released from the late '60s until her death in 1974. (Putting to rest the urban myth that she choked to

sunny Mann/Weil songs like "It's Getting Better" and "New World Coming," with their Phil Spectorish wall of sound, must have sounded decidedly dated upon release in the late '60s, but, fortunately, time has been kind to them. One Mann/Weil tune, "Make Your Own Kind of Music," which served as a lovely metaphor for queer romance in *Beautiful Thing*, could even be called a classic.

Most of Elliot's pop numbers only showcased a fraction of her considerable range as a vocalist.

These songs indicate that Cass Elliot, who boasted the requisite charisma and gay following, would have matured into a first-rate cabaret singer had she lived.

death on a ham sandwich, the liner notes assert that the 32-year-old Elliot died in her sleep of a heart attack.)

Elliot enjoyed her greatest commercial success with material written by Barry Mann and Cynthia Weil, who, along with the Neil Sedaka/Howie Greenfield and Carole King/Gerry Goffin songwriting teams, were the leading architects of early '60s Brill Building pop. Elliot's interpretations of

Luckily, this collection includes several ballads, namely the strangely nostalgic "Disney Girls" and the wistful, Hal David-penned "The Good Times Are Coming," that are evidence enough of the warmth and depth of her singing. These songs indicate that Elliot, who boasted the requisite charisma and gay following, would have likely matured into a first-rate cabaret singer had she lived. ▼



Cass Elliot

OBITUARY

Rick Jacobsen

1961—1997

Underground art dealer, activist, theatrical producer, substance-abuse counselor, bookseller, and certified massage therapist Rick Jacobsen died last week after a lengthy battle with AIDS-related lymphoma. Jacobsen left an indelible queer mark on most aspects of San Francisco's art scene, from the gay ghetto to SF-MOMA. A man of tart, self-deprecating wit and crowd-pleasing instincts, Jacobsen breathed acerbic life into the local gallery circuit with Kiki, his clubhouse for creative types, and staged events such as *Late Nite with Joan Jett Blakk* and *Waiting for Godot*.

"I'm sure it's the homosexual in me, but I've always been interested in shows," he once said. As an early ACT UP member, Jacobsen learned the energizing effect of a good spectacle and channeled the notion into curating edgy art exhibitions, shows that included such luminaries as Jerome Caja, Keith Mayerson, Cecilia Dougherty, and Nayland Blake. He opened his gallery in 1993 with "Caca at Kiki," an artfully scatological event, and continued to explore his fascination with pop culture in shows like *Bong!*, a sculptural look at you know what. He went on to examine the problematic nature of red ribbon empathy with *Sick Joke*, an exhibition of AIDS humor. In a self-published catalog for the latter, Jacobsen wrote of the epidemic with characteristic lucidity: "The storm as a metaphor takes on biblical proportions and I know no Noah. Fuck it; today we're survivors." For those who knew him, his smirky, lovable memory perseveres. He was 35. ▼

—Glen Helfand



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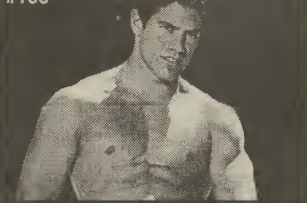
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THEATRE

Paper chase

by Chad Jones

The Aurora Theatre Company's *The Aspern Papers* is that rarest of theatrical experiences. The show is as intimate and polished as it is intense and soulful. Adapted 40 years ago by British actor and patriarch Michael Redgrave from the 1888 Henry James novella, *Aspern* tells the story of an American scholar, Henry Jarvis, who travels to Venice to ferret out some hard-to-find personal correspondence from the collected works of an elusive poet named Jeffrey Aspern. To get the papers, Jarvis must infiltrate the dusty home of Juliana Bordereau, a wheelchair-bound centenarian who is tended to by her mousy niece Tina. Jarvis will stop at nothing to get the coveted papers out of Juliana's clutches, even if it means that he must become a boarder in her home and make love to her sheltered niece.

It's a glorious set-up for what turns out to be the best piece of chamber theater around. Under the careful direction of Tom Ross, *The Aspern Papers* becomes a



Cast of Aurora Theatre's "The Aspern Papers."

deeply satisfying and ultimately triumphant journey through romance, subterfuge, and delicious vengeance. The Aurora Theatre uses a small room in the exquisite Berkeley City Club for this pro-

duction, and the intimate surroundings and glorious Julia Morgan architecture only heighten the theater experience.

Lorri Holt as the niece, Tina, is tremendously affecting, and Barbara Oliver as the crotchety but fearsome Juliana adds another notch to her distinguished career. The entire cast is wonderful, and being able to see such fine work up close is a treat indeed. ▼

The Aspern Papers has been extended through March 2. Call (510)-843-4822 for information.

knowing performance of this off-beat, genre-less piece.

Stuart Neill's clarion tenor counted as a major discovery, and the charged narration of Andre Gide's text by California-based Stephanie Cosserat made her native French sound like the original language of the gods. The children's choruses — Ragazzi, the Peninsula Boys Chorus and the San Francisco Girls Chorus — in the last movement were remarkable for the appreciable air of elevation they brought to this mysterious work. An unforeseen blessing of the strike is that we will surely hear *Perséphone* again.

The concert was big, even by Tilson Thomas' standards, and it left no doubt that the San Francisco Symphony was back — big time. ▼

Symphony

◀ page 39

sky's largely choral *Perséphone*. By Friday's performance, the conductor's attention was focused at least as much on the Chorus as on the large orchestra, and the detail he coaxed from the choristers, particularly the women, more than repaid his attentions. (He blew the sopranos a kiss Friday, and it wasn't just Valentine's Day sentimentality.)

With this *Perséphone*, Tilson Thomas reasserted his credentials as one of the world's greatest Stravinsky conductors. The composer's daunting polyrhythms are like mother's milk to the conductor's quicksilver imagination, and he coaxed from his players a

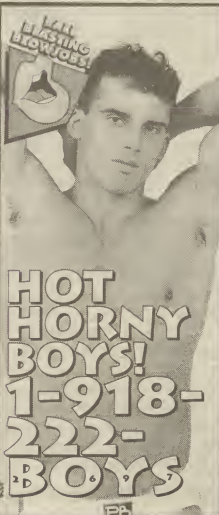
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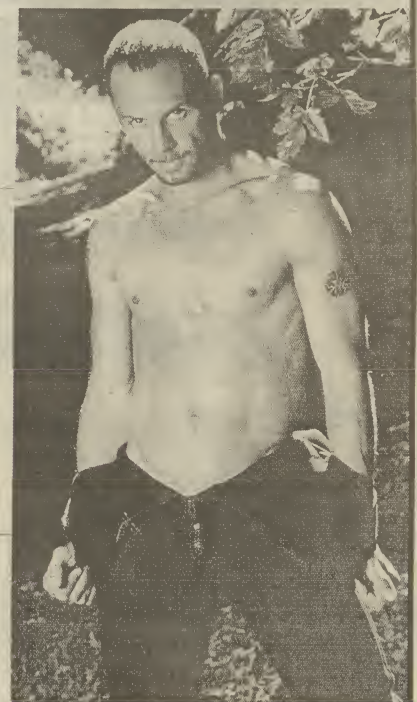


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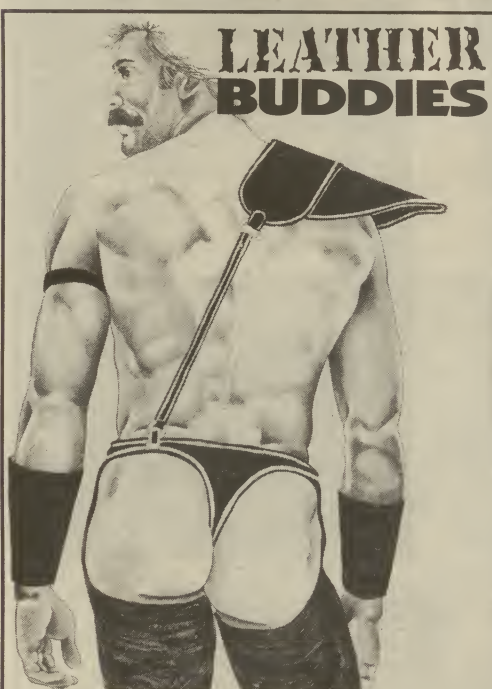


Meet Tim Barela, author of *Leonard and Larry* autographing his books at our booth on Saturday, Feb. 22, 12-4 p.m., the Ramada hotel, Civic Center.

We are offering extended hours at the store all weekend long, so stop on by to see us!

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faces



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Wednesday, Feb 26th
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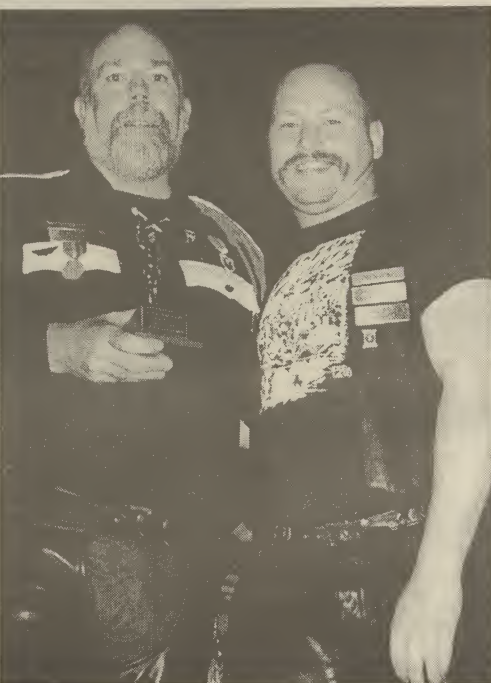
GG Guards sweep ICF awards

by Mister Marcus

The Golden Gate Guards swept the Inter-Club's 31st annual Motorcycle Awards ceremony Sunday evening, February 16, at the Russian Center. It was a hefty crowd of Bike Club types and their fans who turned out to witness Mr. S.F. Leather Gary Virginia win Man of the Year. Bruce McCutcheon of the GDIs was named Biker of the Year, and Buddy Rider of the Year was awarded to independent biker Dan Embry. Co-chairs Bill Hollabaugh and David Meyer are to be commended for putting on a great show. Inter-Club Fund Chair Tommy Thomas commended all the wonderful volunteers — too many to name here — who helped engineer the event. Thomas also had a hand in the sumptuous buffet. Former dad-dies Irwin Kane and Cornelius Conboy emceed, and they moved things along nicely, with a minimum of rhetoric and some hilarious ad-libbing. It was a lot of fun (especially those wigs).

The biggest winners of the evening, though, were the Golden Gate Guards, who walked away with at least eight awards, including the coveted Best Weekend Run of 1996. The tireless Jason Fontaine's club earned trophies for Best Special Event on a Run, Best One Day Run (shared with the Warriors MC of LA), Best Food on a Run, Most Visible Club, Club Excellence for Buddy Events, and Best Guard Night Show on a run.

A nod to veteran club members was poignant when Cam Solari did a duet with Miguel Guiterrez a la Streisand and Channing; hilarious too were Jack Goodall, Gary Kenyon, and the aforementioned Fontaine in that wild wheel chair



Golden Gate Guards' former president Jack Goodall (left) and current prez Andy Rose accept the award for Best Motorcycle Weekend Run of 1996 at the ICF Motorcycle Awards last Sunday, February 16.

number. Most ironic part of the evening was when drag queen Paulette was honored for the Best Individual Number in a Show. Accepting the prize for Ms. P. was Rocky Rockwood, who told the audience that La Paulette was indisposed because she had fallen off a bar stool the night before and was in the hospital. Instead of a trophy, Paulette should get a six-month stay in Saint Helena!



Bazaar

The show started on time and ended on time; the only flaw of the evening was that there was only ONE bartender on duty, which meant suffering through a very long line to get a beverage. All things considered, though, this was a great night. Good vibes, a real 10 event. The Winners' Circle Champagne party at the Eagle afterwards was swamped with celebrants, and the victory brunch on Monday morning by the Golden Gate Guards was a smashing success. Don't 'ya just love this town?

Busiest weekend of the year

Next weekend is shaping up to be the busiest weekend of the year — and it's only February! Thousands are on their way to SF for the Imperial Coronation, the International Bear Rendezvous, and the 17th anniversary of the 15 Association. Airports in San Francisco, Oakland, and San Jose are awash in bears, drag queens, and leather-clad S & M aficionados, all of whom are gearing up for a fun-filled weekend in Mecca. The bars and restaurants and other businesses in our midst are preparing for the onslaught, so, if you're a resident, extend a welcoming hand to all of our guests.

Emperor Steve Vallone and Empress Cockatelia end their reign on Saturday, February 22, when new royalty is crowned. I hope everyone voted last Saturday. If you didn't, don't whine about the winners! The campaign has been vigorous this year, and, thankfully, there were no death threats, vicious phone calls, tire slashings, or torrents of "he said, she said" dish and innuendo, like last year. Maybe we're all finally growing up!

In the bear community, International Mr. Bear, Steve Blanset of Long Beach, will sash his successor on Sunday, February 23. San Francisco's hopes in this in-



Bike Rider of the Year Bruce McCutcheon (left) with Buddy Rider of the Year Dan Embry at the ICF's 31st Motorcycle Awards.

LEATHER SCENE

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, Feb. 20

International Bear Rendezvous pre-weekend beer-bust and party at the Lone Star Saloon at 2100. Constantines MC beerbust at Daddy's; \$7; 2000-2300 to benefit the Rita Rocket Sunday Brunches at San Francisco General Hospital.

Friday, Feb. 21

IBR weekend kicks off with a pub crawl at 2100, ending at the SF Eagle at 2300. Meet all the Int'l Mr. Bear contestants at that time.

Earlier, the Emperor's Council will gather in formal attire at the Giraffe on Polk Street for a 25th anniversary celebration from 1700-1900. Bring your tiaras.

The 15 Association hosts its anniversary banquet at the Cliff House at 1900. Free HIV anonymous testing at 933 Harrison from 2200 to half-past midnight. The Outcasts meet tonight, too, so call 487-5170 for time and location.

Beartoonist Fran Frisch opens two shows at Moby Dick and Daddy's with a reception for the artist from 1600-1900 at Daddy's and one at Moby's from 1800-2100. Zodiac drawings. Elephant Red Brew. A benefit for Godfather Service Fund.

Saturday, Feb. 22

Dyke Daddy & Mommy contests at the SF-Eagle, \$5 beerbust, 50/50 raffle from 2000-2300. Thanks Beth Elliot and Koko for a good year with the titles.

Crowning new Emperor and Empress at Gift Center with a "The Sky's The Limit" theme. Doors open at 1700. There's a long list of courts honoring outgoing Steve and Cockatella.

Bears of SF beerbust at the SF Eagle, 1500-1900 with tix available at the door.

Bears of SF host, "Celebrate San Francisco" party at Ramada Inn's Crystal Ballroom, 2000-2400. No tickets available at the door. In other words, SOLD OUT!

The 15 anniversary dungeon party and dinner buffet at 1900. Call 673-0452 for cost, location etc. BYOB. Soft drinks furnished. Your guest(s) must accompany you.

Sunday, Feb. 23

Buses leave the *P.S. bar, Daddy's/Castro Station and Holiday Inn for Woodlawn Cemetery at 0800 in the morning to honor the Widow Norton's imagi-

nary dead husband. Continental breakfast in the graveyard. Call 673-6160 for details.

Bears of SF brunch from 1030-1300 at the SF-Eagle. Tickets available at the gate.

The 15 dungeon party and dinner buffet from 1500-2000. Call 673-0452 for details.

No tickets are available for the IBR weekend's climax, International Mr. Bear contest at the Gift Center Pavilion. Doors open at 2000. Mr. Lurch will emcee with Danny Williams and Pussy Tourette entertaining. This event is SOLD OUT!

Monday, Feb. 24

Going Home Party for Bear Rendezvous delegates at the Lone Star Saloon, 1700-1900.

Cigar Night beerbust at Daddy's; \$7; 2200-0100 in the back bar. See the cigars. See the smoke. See George choke!

Wednesday, Feb. 26

Leather Buddies meet. Mandatory boots, leather, no cologne; sniffing takes place. You know the rules!

Hands on Rope Workshop, 1900-2200. Subject: Bondage for Restriction (intermediate). Call Lou Duff, 550-0122 for cost, location.

ACLC dinner and social, \$5 at the Driftwood Lounge in Hayward. Add \$3 if you want the beerbust, too, or a total of \$8 for both.

Erotic Art auction and beerbust (\$6) by NC Drummer "Taurus" at Daddy's with \$5 logo transfers (bring your own shirt, shorts) emblazoned. Benefiting AIDS Emergency Fund.

Thursday, Feb. 27

Mr. April 1998 on the Bare Chest Calendar will be chosen at the SF-Eagle with Patrick Batt, George Carreras and Wolf Mirasol judging. Win \$100, fame, and maybe a new husband!

Dating Game at Daddy's with Danny Williams. Win dinner date with a daddy or boy and over \$1000 in prizes to the winning couple.

Saturday, March 1

Mr. April '97 bare chest Tom Powers' "Midnight Picnic & Weenie Bust" at the SF-Eagle, 2000-2300, \$8, beer, food, raffles, auction, live entertainment. A benefit for the AIDS Emergency Fund.

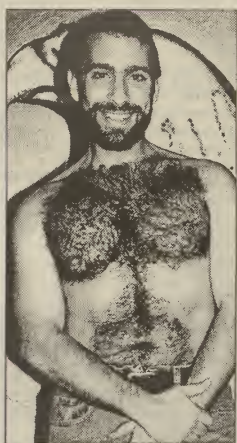
Mr. Lone Star beerbust at the Saloon, 1600-2000. No details furnished at my deadline.

ternational competition lie with Mr. San Francisco Bear Bill Adams, whom we wish well in the competition; between the two groups (crowned heads and bears), there are almost two dozen events from dawn till midnight Friday to Monday!

Last week wasn't lacking in activities either. On Thursday, February 13, another record crowd materialized at the SF-Eagle to witness seven contestants vie for the Mr. March 1998 spot on the Bare Chest Calendar.

Akimbo Cafe manager Mark Mertz and judges Joseph Bean and Omar Moseley went through the raucous questioning of the aspirants. Besides winning \$100 cash and a spot on the calendar, the winner also got a gift certificate to the elegant Akimbo Cafe in addition to free passes to Blow Buddies and Leather Buddies. The runner-up and the other contestants got passes to Blow Buddies and Leather Buddies. After all the shenanigans, the judges tallied their votes and the very volatile Jim "Jimmer" Cassiol won the spot with Christopher Ward taking the runner-up position. Members of the audience included visitors from Toronto, Paris, Melbourne, San Diego, Los Angeles and Detroit. A very fun night. Mr. April will be chosen on Thursday, February 27, when Pat Batt, George Carreras, and Wolf Mirasol grill the competitors. Are you cheery enough to win?

Earlier that night, "Big" Ben Whitmer and Marc Colelli, co-chairs of Coming Home Hospice Bingo, were pleased with the leather and Inter-Club Fund turnout at Most Holy Redeemer Church. Leather personalities called the numbers and Philip



Jim "Jimmer" Cassiol won the Mr. March 1998 Bare Chest Calendar spot at the Eagle last Thursday, February 13. Mr. April will be chosen on February 27 at the Eagle.

Turner auctioned off one of those talking dolls swathed in leather. He made big bucks. I am grateful for having had the opportunity to be a guest caller, and for receiving a very smart certificate of service award from Coming Home Hospice Bingo. It was a fun event, and, hopefully, profitable. If you haven't yet ventured out to partake of the Bingo games, you should. It's a great cause, and besides, you never know what hunk you might meet when they call 0-69! There have been at least three dozen marriages that I know of that have come out of Thursday night Bingo.

Last Friday, Valentine's Day, the

Constantines of the Bay Area MC hosted a swank 30th anniversary bash at the Slavonic Cultural Center, way out there in the Outer Mission. Those who had misgivings about the out-of-the-way location were quickly disabused of them by the fabulous spread, which included gourmet hors d'oeuvres, an open bar, and a cake to end all cakes. After the eats, the new officers were introduced: Doug Stromberg was reelected President; the new VP is Wayne Johnson; Secretary is, Al Aden; and Kit Carson is the new Road Captain. And oh, yes, the First Lady is Rick Lubrano. Congratulations to all!

In Chicago on Saturday night, February 15, a huge crowd turned out for the Mr. Cell Block Leather '97 contest. Events coordinator Patti Brown managed to get IML's Jill Carter, IML Joe Gallagher, Mr. Vulcan Rubber Rich Villagrana, former Mr. Drummer David Walker, and other prominent leather types to judge while D.C.'s Frank Nowicki emceed. A record nine contestants vied for the title, and when it was over, 40-year-old Brian Mark Conover took the title. "Mufasha" was the first runner-up, Tom Otten the second runner-up. You'll be seeing Mr. Conover onstage at IML in May.

Speaking of IML, have you made your arrangements yet? The Congress Hotel is almost sold out and tickets (at \$125 a pop) are going fast. Reserve your room by calling (800)-635-1666. Rooms are \$93/night for a single or double, and don't forget to mention IML for that rate. For tickets, charged to your Visa or Mastercard, call IML at (800) 545-6753, or write to IML, Inc., 5015 No. Clark St., Chicago, IL 60640. Don't get left out! ▼

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OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Roberto Friedman



This Evening's Web-Cast: Live From Oblivion, by Stephen Hendee.

Real estate

The artists of the group show *Real World* at New Langton Arts may or may not have gone through the looking-glass, but their collected works all have something to do with imaginary landscapes. These nine artists make their own reality, Alice all, in the Wonderland of art.

Real World has both large installations and very tiny images, but Erika Olsen Hannes' elaborate installation steals the show. It's a big pink island installed in the middle of the gallery, filled with plastic tropical flora, artificial topographical features, and, descending from a ramp which leads to the skylight above, kitschy figurines of bridal figures meeting and greeting. Hannes' target may be cultural notions of the feminine, but her installation will satisfy any girl or boy's aspirations of creating a Fantasy Island from model glue and pop culture.

Obvious artifice and a whimsical approach to scale play a large part in many of these works. Michael Ashkin has made sculptures of deserted landscapes that are meticulous in their recreation of the sort of industrial wastelands that open up in the outlying areas of population centers. New Langton program associate Lorelei Stewart says Ashkin's works "recall out-take stills of road films: banal road side scenes in B movies or other narratives in which the detritus of industrial life figures as backdrop." The beauty of Ashkin's work is in its intimations of some ideal *arte povera* created from your daddy's Lionel train set.

And for the architectural enthusiasts among us, Ken Goldberg and Karl Bohringer have reproduced Frank Lloyd Wright's famous Fallingwater house at a scale of 1/1,000,000, so that we have to peer at the cantilevered structure through the lens of a microscope. The confusion of worlds—art appreciation with microscopic science—brings some interesting associations to bear on the prairie doyenne of American architecture. This lovely residence for paramedica has us envisioning a Trump Tower for capitalist parasites, as designed by Philip Johnson. ▼

Real World remains on view through March 1 at New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom Street. For information, call 626-5416.

Fri

Box Lunch

Lee DeLaria's new comedy and be-bop jazz cabaret show. Wed.-Sun. at 8pm, Fri. & Sat. also 10pm, thru 2/23. \$12. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Commawdity

Awd multimedia band, dance, aerobics performance. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm. \$12. Brady St. Dance Ctr., 60 Brady. 436-9697.

Digitally Yours

"Comic Queeries into the Future" written and performed by Karen Hirst and Margery Kreitman. Fri. & Sat. thru 3/1 at 8:30pm. \$10. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Disguised Blessing

Q Spirit presents performance piece by Adrian Brooks. \$10. 7pm. Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin. 281-9377.

The Edge of Forever

Staged reading of Tommi Avicolli Mecca's play: gay son makes peace with dying mama. \$5. 8:30pm. Jon Sims Center, 1519 Mission. 552-6031.

Entertaining Mr. Sloane

Joe Orton's drama: brother and sister's rivalry for a young man's affections. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 3/2. \$14-16. Phoenix Theatre, 301 8th St. 621-4423.

Frisch

Bear zodiac drawings, thru 3/11. Reception today, benefit GodFather Service Fund, 4-7pm at Daddy's, 440 Castro; 6-9pm at Moby Dick, 18th & Hartford. 435-7966.

From Alpha to Omega

Showcase: songs of Porter, Berlin, Coward, more, benefits 42nd St. Moon's Lost Musicals series. Fri. at 8pm, Sat. at 6pm, Sun. at 2pm. \$25-35 (incl. Sat. party). New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.



Photographs by John Gutmann: Parallels in Focus at the Art Department Gallery, San Francisco State University. Opens Sunday (see listing).

Goldberg Street

Scenes from David Mamet's early work, incl. *All Men Are Whores: an Inquiry*. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 3/22. \$10. Exit Stage Left, 156 Eddy. 673-7156.

Jimmy Emerson

& Brent Allen in "dragageous" comedy impressions. Tonight & Sat. at 8pm, various dates thru 3/3, call for times, prices. Plush Room, York Hotel, 940 Sutter. 885-2800.

Layers

Evening of electroacoustic music performed by Lukas Ligeti, Pamela Z. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm. \$6-10. The LAB, 2948 16th St. 864-8855.

MACT Video Night

Men of All Colors Together screen *I Shall Not Be Moved—The Life of Marlon Riggs* with Riggs' surviving spouse Jack Vincent. \$2. 7pm. 95 Duboce. 675-0201.

Pacific Orchid Expo

SF Orchid Society's 45th annual show and plant sale. Preview tonight, 6pm (\$20). Sat.

& Sun., \$8. Festival Pavilion, Fort Mason. 546-9608.

Psychic Drag Queens

Live on the net at <http://ina.com>; 24-hr. party, brainchild of Tara Limbaugh, aka Mark Ewert. \$10, \$15 at door. 8pm (thru 2/22, 8pm). Internet Alfredo, 790-A Brannan. 437-3140.

SF/NY Artists Exchange

Rising stars of NY dance world Nicholas Leichter Dance, Molly Rabinowitz, Grisha Coleman perform. Fri.-Sun. at 8pm. \$12-50. ODC/SF Perf. Gallery Theatre, 3153 17th St. 863-9834.

Something Cloudy, Something Clear

Eastenders Repertory Co. presents Tennessee Williams' last play. Thurs.-Sat. thru 3/1 at 8pm. \$12-20. Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa. (510) 841-6510.

The Stand-In

Keith Curran's satire on homophobia in movie biz, directed by Danny Scheie.

Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm thru 2/22. \$14-18. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St. 861-5079.

Stomp

Unconventional percussion sensation. Tues.-Sun. thru 2/23, call for times. \$15-42.50. Tonight at 8pm. Golden Gate Theatre, Taylor at Market. 776-1999.

Theater Fighting AIDS

Keith Haring AIDS Mem'l Chapel Proj. and Alma Delfina Group present new perf. works. \$5. 8pm. ATA, 992 Valencia. 824-3890.

Trafficking in Broken Hearts

Erotic drama about a hustler, a runaway, and a lawyer. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/15. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

We Keep Coming

Brothers Network and Stop AIDS Project present celebration of black heritage, with Kerrington Osborne, City of Refuge Gospel Choir, more. Free. 7pm. 973 Market, 7th fl. 356-8140.

Sat

Bear Bust

Bearatones, furry men vocal trio, perform: pop music, bear booty. Beer/soda bust, 3-6pm. \$6. SF Eagle, 398 12th St.

Colors

Latina dance party: salsa, merengue, cumbias. 9pm-2am. Jelly's, 295 China Basin.

Crystal Fair

Crystals, minerals, jewelry and healing arts. Sat. & Sun. \$4. Bldg. A, Fort Mason. 383-7837.

Good Girls Don't

Linda Thornburg performs stories about growing up queer & clueless in the Midwest, free. 7:30pm. Boadecia's, 398 Colusa, Kensington. (510) 559-9184.

Men's Flag Football

Gay flag football, all levels welcome. 10am. Louis Sutter Park, Wayland and Amherst. 441-7760.

Phranc

Jewish lesbian folksinger hawks her wares, free. 3pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Radio Mambo:

"Culture Clash Invades Miami," Latino comedy troupe. Wed.-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 3&7pm thru 3/16. \$17-21. Brava Theatre, 2789 24th St. 647-BTCC.

Seasons of the Veil

Industrial-operatic ensemble DeusMachina in Frank Garvey's multimedia work. \$8-14. 8pm. Theatre Concrete, 550 Natoma. 621-4068.

20/20 Blake

George Coates Performance Works presents musical based on William Blake's *The Marriage of Heaven and Hell*. \$14-34. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 7pm extended thru 3/30. Performance Works, 110 McAllister. 392-4400.

Valentine's Party for HIV+ Men

Meet the man of your dreams. Body Positive event. 7-11pm. Zeck's, 1319 California. Call for info: 241-1579.

Virgins and Other Myths

One-man play stars Andrew Nance: All-American sex-driven prostitute. Thurs.-Sat. at 8pm thru 3/15. \$16-20. New Conservatory Theatre, 25 Van Ness. 861-8972.

Viva Madonna

Latin dance club presents tribute to the music of Madonna, Evita highlight. 10pm-3am. Futura, 174 King. 665-6715.

Zoo Sex Tour

7th annual Valentine's Day Sex tour, frank talk about animal sex. Sat. & Sun. at 9am&3pm. \$35. SF Zoo, 1 Zoo Rd. 753-7165.

Zoo Story

Edward Albee's play, with LeRoy Jones' *The Dutchman*. Fri. & Sat. at 8pm thru 3/21. \$10. The Sea Theatre, 533 Sutter. 433-7875.

Sun

GAWK

Gay Artists and Writers Collective seeks video editors, guitar players, music junkies and comedians. Meets Sun. at 3pm. Info: 731-2424.

John Gutmann:

"Parallels in Focus," exhibit of photographs, paintings and drawings by the artist, incl. the original "Talking Pictures." Reception today, 2pm. Mon.-Sat. thru 3/20. Art Dept. Gallery, SFSU, 1600 Holloway. 338-6535.

Mecca

"Glamour Girls" Dylan Berkeley Star, Sarah Fran Wisby, Amy Jangochian read, free. Open mike sign-up, 12:30pm. Salon, 1pm. A Different Light, 489 Castro. 431-0891.

Pansy Division

Queer rockers play SF. 21+over. 8pm. Kilowatt, 3160 16th St. 861-2595.

Places in the Heart

Tony Kushner's "A Sermon" and Octavio Solis' "Silica" from *Pieces of the Quilt*; Johnny D's "Requiem for the Singing Nun" with Amy Boyd. \$10. 4pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Voyeur

Erotic performances in an alternative lesbian environment, women only. \$7. 9pm on. CoCo Club, 139 8th St. 865-0649.

Mon

Earplay

New chamber music by



Performance group Awd in Commawdity at Brady Street Dance Center. See Friday.



Aren't they adorable? Queer rockers Pansy Division play the Kilowatt Sunday night. See listing.

Richard Felciano, Mark Wings, Belinda Reynolds, more. \$15. 8pm. Center for the Arts Forum, 701 Mission. 978-ARTS.

Forget-Me-Not

Assemblages by Jenna Evans combining photographs, found objects, and previously living creatures. Thru Feb. Mad Magda's Russian Tea Room, 579 Hayes. 864-7654.

Gay Book Clubs

Lesbian Book Club discusses Anne Cameron's *The Journey*, Gay Men's Book Club discusses Edmund White's *Skinned Alive*, free. 7pm. Clean, Well-Lighted Place, 2417 Larkspur Landing, Marin. 461-0171.

Gay Comedy Open Mike

Aspiring queer comics sign up by phone, MC Sabrina Matthews. \$5. 8pm. Josie's Cabaret, 3583 16th St. 861-7933.

Old, Jewish and Queer

Naomi Newman in musical theatre piece that pushes boundaries of time and gender. Opens tonight, 8pm (\$20). Thurs-Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm thru 3/23. \$16. A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 2800 Mariposa. 399-1809.

Preserving a Jewel:

"Costumes from the San Francisco Ballet" exhibit, free. Mon.-Fri. thru 3/28. Transamerica Pyramid lobby, 600 Montgomery. 983-4088.

Robert Arneson

Exhibit of self-portraits: ceramics, bronzes, works on paper. Thru 5/13. SFMOMA, 151 3rd St. 357-4000.

Russia in Black and White:

"The Photojournalism of Yevgeny Khaldei" exhibit. Sun.-Thurs. thru 7/17. \$5 (free Mondays). Jewish Museum SF, 121 Steuart. 543-8880.

Tues

Domenic Cretara

"Contemporary Allegories," figurative paintings, Tues.-Sat. thru 3/1. Mulligan-Shanoski, 747 Post. 771-0663.

The Gospel at Colonus

Lee Breuer's exuberant gospel-musical based on Sophocles' *Oedipus at Colonus*. Tues.-Sat. at 8pm, Sat. & Sun. matinees, thru 3/2. \$22-38. Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley. (510) 642-9988.

The Living Brush

Exhibition of "Four Contemporary Chinese Master Calligraphers." Tues.-Sat. thru 8/14. Pacific Heritage Museum, 608 Commercial. 399-1124.

Mark Burns

New collaged paintings, with ceramic sculpture by Mary Snowden. Thru 3/1. Braunstein/Quay Gallery, 250 Sut-

ter. 392-5532.

Open Secrets

"Seventy Pictures on Paper, 1815 to the Present" exhibit includes photos by Diane Arbus, Walker Evans; art by Henri Matisse, Andy Warhol, more. Thru 3/1. Fraenkel Gallery, 49 Geary. 981-2661.

Paris Before the Boulevards

"1860s-70s" photographs by Charles Marville. Thru 3/22. Robert Koch Gallery, 49 Geary. 421-0122.

The Peale Family:

"Creation of an American Legacy, 1770-1870" exhibition. Wed.-Sun. thru 4/6. \$6. de Young Museum, Golden Gate Park. 863-3330.

QTV

Gay and lesbian program explores cyberspace. Tues. at 7pm. Cable Channel 47. 956-1284.

Raindance:

"New Paintings for the Spring" by Lynn Beldner, Kico Govantes, Nelson Morales, more. Tues.-Sat. thru 3/15. Terrain, 165 Jessie. 543-0656.

Smashing Clay

Group show of sculptors in clay, thru 3/12. Bucheon Gallery, 355 Hayes. 863-2891.

Women's Work

Karen Ripley's Improv Circus with past & present students. \$6-10. 8pm. Venue 9, 252 9th St. 626-2169.

Wed

Basic Bondage

Hands-on rope workshop. \$25 (plus \$20 if you need rope). 7pm. Castlebar. Call for info. 550-0122.

Game Night

Card and board games. Wed. at 7:30pm. Muddy's Coffeehouse, 1304 Valencia. 679-3680.

Landmarks of the American Musical

Exhibition of memorabilia, music and video clips. Wed.-Sat. thru 3/22. SF Performing Arts Library & Museum, 399 Grove. 255-4800.

Lesbian Sacred Spirituality

Author Diane Mariechild speaks to Q-Spirit. \$10. 7pm. MCC, 150 Eureka. 281-9377.

Machinal

ACT's production of Sophie Treadwell's 1920s drama. Tues.-Sun. thru 3/9, call for times. Tonight at 8pm. \$9.50-47.50. Geary Theater, 415 Geary. 749-2228.

Real World

Exhibition of nine artists who explore implications of scale. Thru 3/1. New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom. 626-5416.

Size of Earth:

"Illuminated Photoworks by Doug and Mike Starn" exhibit, also "The Inaugural Ball:

An Open Space Installation by Margaret Crane and Jon Winet," thru 3/16. \$5. Ansel Adams Center for Photography, 250 4th St. 495-7000.

Thur

All Women's Comedy

Showcase. \$5. 8pm. The Temple, 431 Natoma. 989-5134.

Approach

Installation by Glen Seator: reproduction of street in front of bldg. Tues.-Sat. thru 3/22. Capp St. Project, 525 2nd St. 495-7101.

Bingo

Coming Home Hospice Bingo benefits AIDS groups. 6:30pm. 100 Diamond. 552-2127.

Codified Desire

Traveling exhibit curated by Rik Ritchey. Tues.-Sat. thru 3/1. Catharine Clark Gallery, 49 Geary. 399-1439.

Diosa!: Oh My Goddess

Sherry Glaser performs one-woman comedy work-in-progress. Thru 3/27, call for times. \$20. 8pm. Hoytt Theater, Osher Marin JCC, 200 N. San Pedro, San Rafael. 479-2000.

Park Your Car in Harvard Yard

Israel Horowitz's play stars Dean Goodman and Rebecca Dines. Thurs.-Sun. thru 3/9, call for times. \$20. Tonight at 8pm. Jewel Theatre, 655 Geary. (510) 562-4647.

Picasso at the Lapin Agile

Steve Martin's comedy featuring the NY cast. Tues.-Sun., extended thru 3/30. Tonight at 8pm, call for times. \$25-38. Theatre on the Square, 450 Post. 433-9500.

Still Lives and Florals

American realists exhibition includes Paul Cadmus, Randall Lake. Thru 3/29. John Pence Gallery, 750 Post. 441-1138.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Roberto Friedman
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395 Ninth Street
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Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

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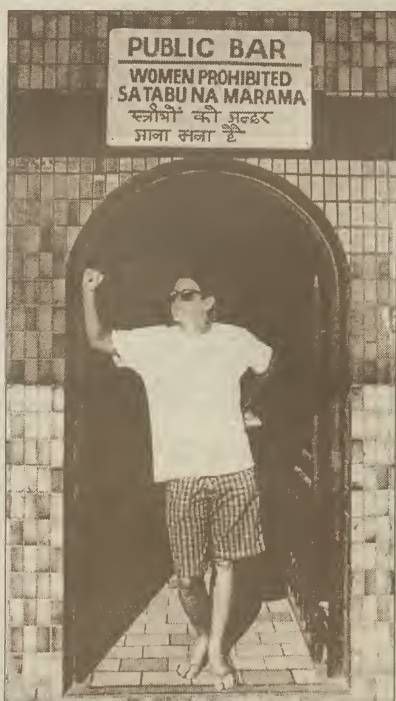
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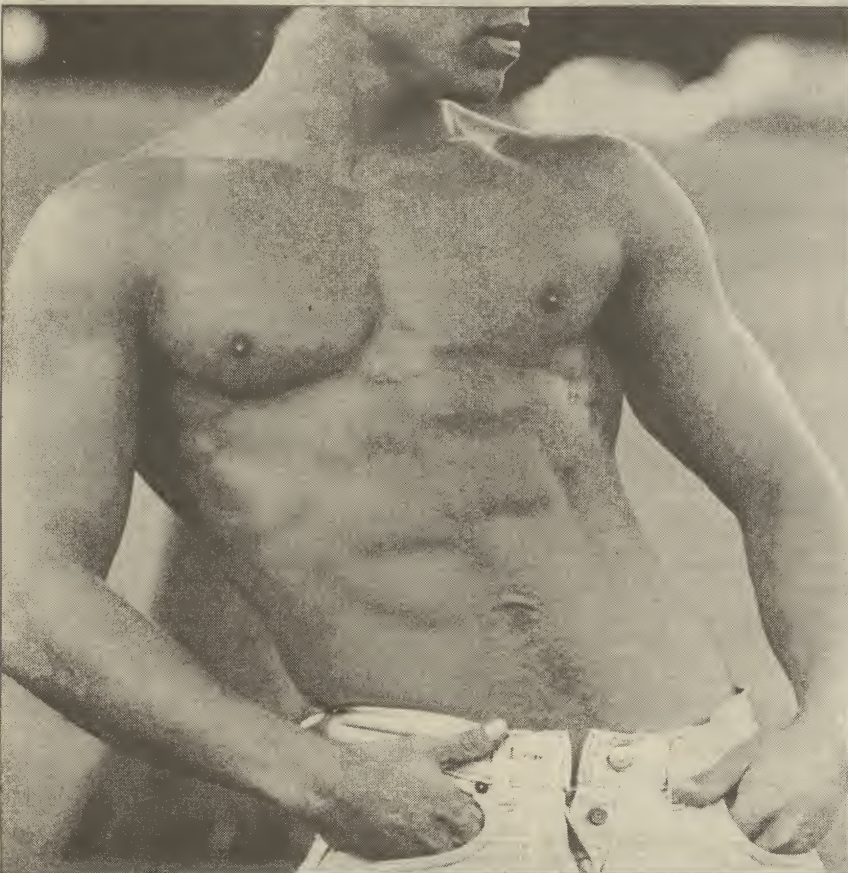
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PARTING GLANCES

City Entertainment

Early AM 1/20/97, back left booth. You: 6'1", attractive, clean shaven, fit, well groomed GWM, full brown hair. Me: same but 5'7", HIV+. Please forgive my hasty departure. Another chance as equals? Richard. 4801.

SF County Clerk's Office 1/23

I asked for copies late, you were closing the office & had to let me in to pay the cashier. You seemed to like what you saw...so did I! 4802.

Steamworks 1/24

I'm leaving, you in door, I blew it! Paul, Lake Merced, call Mark in San Leandro—Neighbors! 4803.

1/24 F-Line AM

You: hot, handsome bear with great eyes! Me: admirer in green jacket with backpack. You sat across aisle, nodded, I smiled. Please call! I would love to meet. 4804.

Eros Sat 1/11 Versatile Man

With the powerful energy & hot hole. I want to slip it in some more & have a rematch! Richard. 4805.

S Cook We Met Nov Sun SF Eagle

You celebrating birthday w/friends. I in tall black leather boots, you in chaps. I gave you my card. You called twice, no return number. I haven't forgotten you. Call again. 4806.

Self Destructive

On Folson St. Jan. 21 at 3:30 PM. You blond, me not. We met, we talked...please contact me. 4807.

Stompers Boots Store 1/26

Me: buzzed head buying motorcycle boots. You: two hot men in leather. We chatted briefly—maybe you'd like a closer look at my butt? 4856.

Eros 1/26

Locker next to me, you were dressing after a massage and were going home, instead you made a detour upstairs with me. Want to play some more? 4857.

Devon And Luca

At the Latin America Club. Sorry I had to leave so quickly. Call Universal Jim to go out. 4908.

1/19 Berkeley Steamworks #216

You D.R., 42yo, handsome, Italian, SF native, goatee, kissable & beautiful lips Lincoln high. Me: 44, GWM, bear type (Darryl) in Guerneville awaiting your call to cuddle, kiss & more. 4858.

Cup-Of-Joe Sunday 1/26 Behind U

You: wore an orange V-neck sweater w/black tee, brown hair with mustache, goatee, & eyeglasses. Sat across from you wearing black sweater. Eye contact. Like to meet? 4901.

Goodmans 1/28 Tues. Afternoon

You: hot Asian, Japanese? Stud. Me: R.Q. Positively in green bug. Said "hi," but shy to talk. Let's get together. 4902.

1/22 The Women... Collingwood

Sandy brown hair, 40's, cin sh, thick build, handsome. Me: 40', cin sh, brown hair, white turtleneck, eating popcorn in theater. Later you smiled outside Walgreens. Let's start. 4903.

White Range Rover

Driving on Haight St. 1/30/97 in the afternoon. Me: blond hair, riding red 10-speed. We made eye contact. Wish that I stopped. Let's do coffee. 4904.

We've Flirted (3X) From Afar

Last time as we exited separately out of Church St. station. You're my size but younger, buzzcut. I have S&P bushy mustache, & I really want you. 4905.

GG Seashore Trails Jan. 29

We passed around puddle between Legion of Honor & Sutor Baths, exchanged many glances after. We viewed scenery. I (goatee, short hair) couldn't find nerve to say hi. Regretting it. 4906.

1/27 or 1/28 Detour-You Noel W/S

STP patches. Me: cute in a cab driver kinda way. You: let me to smoke! I had to leave before I killed everyone! I owe you a Stoll. 4907.

Mystery Guy In Van—Sat Feb. 1

First saw you standing on corner of 18th and Castro talking with friends. Later you were in your van with license plate WIL BEAR. Would like to know who you are. 4909.

Attn.: Garilla-Bob Fm Grt Dane

You're 5'6", 140#, in SF for 18 yrs. Love to have wine/dinner but I need your #1 OOPS. Please try again—smile. 4910.

Safeway Diamond Hts

You: tall with red BMW. Me: Asian. Had great time. Let's get together again. 4911.

Espresso Roma On Hopkins 2/12

You: shirless, mustache. Me: Asian, goatee, sunglasses, red jacket. Exchanged glances but were both with a friend so couldn't connect. We all laughed when a bird pooped on your shirt. Let's meet. 4912.

Central YMCA Feb. 1

You are new to area, looking for a gym. I gave you some suggestions. We are both tall, slender, smooth. Let's get together. 4957.

Menlo Park Safeway

Sun 2/25 5:30 PM—Said hello as we were leaving. Want to talk. 4958.

18-15-14-9

Looks and aging are important!! Mind and hear and spirit is what I fell in love with 11 years ago. 10-9-13. 5001.

P-Dome Jan. 24 Latin/Grt Smile

You: sexy eyes, beard, smile, jeans, rd/wt sleeveless shirt. You dazzled the guys then left. Sexy body, beautiful, warm smile—me too. Who RU? Pls call. 5002.

Sun 2/8 Eve Castro 18th

Me: bl leather jacket, Khaki milt cap, gray hr. You: 5'10", drk hair, stach, beard, leather jacket, (glasses?). Looked 1,2,3. Newsstand obstructed. Searched for you. Please call. 5003.

Pleasant Hill BART 2 Yrs Ago

Used to catch BART home together nearly everyday but never spoke. Saw each other again 28, me in Sweet Inspiration, you passing by. You: dark hair, goatee. Me: Asian, glasses, goatee. Let's finally say hi. 5004.

Attractive Latino 25

I'm 5'7", 165#, college educated, humorous, I'm HIV+. Seeking Latinos or Caucasians under 34. Prefer NS & open to adventures. 5006.

Eat & Fuck My Muscle Butt

Enthusiastic bottom/versatile has deep throat & smooth tight, bubble butt for your pleasure. 34, 5'4", 150#, muscular, goate, buzzcut. Seeking in shape, GWM/GLM, 25-40, stache. Thick cock a plus. 5071.

White Collar Sks Blue Collar

Rough and tough with heart of gold. Masculine? Hair? Hung? Dominate? Facial hair? Are you looking for 5'10", 170#, brn/bl, 35, goatee? sexy, sweet, GWM? Home, cooking, sex, friends & more! LTR. 5068.

Need A New Boyfriend?

WM, 52 (looks 30's), 5'11", 155#, clean shaven, NS/ND, HIV+, looking for AM, 25-35, short, slim, for long term monogamous relationship. Like 60's-80's music, theater, dining, travel, scuba, photography, movies, dancing, cats. Affectionate, loyal, marriage-minded. Outstanding opportunity for the right person. 5069.

Embarcadero YMCA Sun 1/26

You Caltrans, me Napa stopped in Benicia for a break. Let's do it again slower. 5063.

Caltrans Feb. 5

To the gorgeous guy I spied at dessert: you cruised, I cruised—we cruised and cruised, but we barely talked. Call me for more than just a look. Won't disappoint. 5064.

Sweet Inspiration Flirtation 2/7

To the gorgeous guy I spied at dessert: you cruised, I cruised—we cruised and cruised, but we barely talked. Call me for more than just a look. Won't disappoint. 5064.

Handsome Muscular Italian

38, 6'2", 185#, into fitness, travel, romance & quiet times, seeks another HIV+, extremely well hung man for monogamous relationship. 5065.

Very Intelligent, Handsome GAM

24, 5'6", 110#, smooth, HIV-. Seeking generous GWM/GAM to enjoy quality of life. I like travel, reading, shopping, art, philosophy and wonderful things. Be honest, healthy, HIV-, not fat. 5067.

HIV + Total Top Wanted

East Bay Concord area bottom, HIV+, 34, 6', 185#, blonde, big, kinda handsome. Needs big brother/dad type boyfriend. LTR with Virgo or Capricorn. Mustached Latin or darker A+. 5070.

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Glam-Sexual

Cute like me. Late 30's, drk blond, private bod, 5'10", Hollywood fit, very oral. Tell me what you look like. 5013.

Seeking Effeminate GM

Masc, GLM, 39, 6', 150#, moderately hairy. Seeking effeminate-looking GM who enjoys lots of passionate kissing, affection & oral sex. Poss LTR with right person. Not into gay scene. 4808.

I'm Asian I Need A Boyfriend

Seeking GWM age 40 yr old to 50 yr old, clean shaven, sexy & funny person. I'm 40 yr old, 5'6", 140#, clean shaven & smooth. I'm Japanese. 4809.

I Dream In Black & White

Tender, passionate, handsome GWM seeks GBM for romantic adventure. I'm 40, tall, muscular, good-natured, outgoing, honest. Dreaming of a man with similar qualities. Let's talk. 4810.

GWM Looking For GAM

GWM, 28, 5'11", 175#, brn/bl, in good shape, looking for relationship oriented, professional GAM, 27-35, who's like me: intelligent, fun-loving, into movies, working out, music, dining out, enjoying life. Serious only. 4811.

Your Best Blow Job(s) Yet?

I trained to be your quintessential cock-sucker because better techniques produce bigger loads to savor & swallow! Shoot me more than you even knew you had in you, kind sir? 4812.

Handsome Bearded GWM 43, 5'11"

155#, br/gr, HIV+, versatile bottom, oral & anal, gym/yoga toned, intelligent, fun loving, ISO versatile top. Prefer facial hair. Big tall, hairy A+. For relationship or friend. 4813.

Handsome POZ Italian Top

Seeks white or Latino HIV+ guys, 20-40. I'm 36, 6'2", 195#, nice shape with big heart & hands. I like massage, good books, good wine, and bad boys. 4814.

Quality GAM Seeks Quality Men

For dating & friendship. Possible LTR. Not into games & BS. Just plain honest, caring & matured friendship. Serious response only. Me: 37 yo, 5'8", 140 lbs. 4815.

Not Uma From "Cats & Dogs"

I'm her friend Abby! GLM, 34, stocky, inexperienced, old-fashioned, hopeless romantic, enjoys travel, movies, dancing; seeks monogamous LTR. You: 28-40, NS/ND, sense of humor, easy going. No casual sex. 4816.

Eligible Taurus Ruckus

W/Sirius best friend, seeks generous domestic homie. Me: 5'11", 155#, buzzcut, goatee, green eyes, handsome, hung, masculine top. You: H/W proportionate, goodlooking, oral/bottom. Arrangement/open relationship minded professional man. 4817.

Ready To Go

GWM, 6'1", 180#, 43, looking for regular meetings. Open to almost everything. One on one or groups. I will try anything once. 4818.

Hot Asian Waiting For You

Seek for friendship and relationship. Well build, friendly with caring heart. Would bring you around 7 you were here. 4819.

Seeking Serious Submissive

Short, NS, semi-hairless leather boy into BD, 25-35, GWM, in-shape, no beard, clean-cut, into leather, toys, CBT, assplay, by goodlooking leather Asian guy, 6', 170#, muscular, LTR possible. 4820.

Sex Slave Companion

GWM, 52, 5'7", 150#, masculine top, HIV-, NS. You: need to suck, fuck, serve, belong between 25-40. Prefer quiet, serious, in-shape, HIV-, leather A+. 4821.

Country Boys

Party all week, come to the country on weekends. Be my quest if you're short, cute, 30-40, cute. I'm a catch; handsome, 40's, professional. 4822.

Handsome Sexy Man On A Hunt

I'm 37, 5'6", blue eyes, HIV-, very hot body, nice guy, down to earth. Seeking very cute guy in 30's to early 40's with nice body for fun & dating. 4823.

HIV Black 170#, 5'10"

No bear type! Must have decent lean body. Forty or under but if you have youthful looking body fifty is OK! 4913.

Spicy Wit

Sensuous & affectionate vegetable eater, 44, GWM, 6', 194, & hirsute seeks bright, younger lover (28-38) for long walks, romance & endless dialogue. Share my passions. 4914.

Bear Seeks Asian/Hispanic Top

GWM, 44, 5'10", 195#, hairy, bald, beard, friendly, honest, sincere. Seeks GAM/GHM, smooth, slender, under 35, for LTR. Enjoy dining out, movies, theater, quiet nights, cuddling, kissing. 4915.

GWC Seeks Asian Third

GWC, attractive, HIV+, 40's, in shape, professional, romantic, sense of humor, passionate, oral & yes, top-seeking Asian third for passion, friendship, more. 4916.

Seeking GWM With Football Phys

I am a GWM, 21, in SJ, looking for a GWM, 25-34. With a husky football player build for a LTR. Healthy, HIV- only. I'm 6'4", 230 lbs. I'm a bottom. 4917.

Looking For GWM Bottom

HIV+, healthy, NS/ND, H/Wt proportionate, love fun on reg basis, monogamous oriented/poss. LTR. I'm GAM, kind, thoughtful, warm, passionate, rel. oriented. 4918.

Masculine & Unaffected

Professional GWM, out of bed but, a slim, smooth, submissive bottom. In. I'm youthful, early 50's, HIV-, open minded & you are masculine, available & ready. 4919.

Sexual Healing

GBM top, prof, 40's, ISO GWM bottom, 50 yrs or above who's physically & emotionally available to pursue a LTR. I'm a lite smoker & drinker. You must be medium to stocky built. 4920.

Seeking Mature Asian

GWM, lean, active, 60, HIV-, seeks older Asian 50-65, for weekend activities, movies, dinners, outdoors, intimacy & quality time. LTR desired. 4921.

River Phoenix Incarnation

Seeks gentleman to discover life together on many levels...Spiritually, physically, mentally, etc...Call now! 4922.

New Year New Romance For GAM

Vietnamese/Chinese 37 yo, Not into bar scene. Seeks attractive GAM for friendship & LTR. I have lots to offer in movies, dining, hiking, nature & quiet evenings. 4923.

Can You Spice Up My Life

Work & working out is my routine. I need more. I'm 38, HIV-, NS/ND, 5'10", 185#. I'm attracted to Body builder/football player types. Age is unimportant, but maturity is. 4924.

Looking 4 A "Classy" "Friend"!

East Bay GWM (San Leandro), attractive, down-to-earth, friendly, romantic, funny, 45 year old (looks younger), 5'10", black hair, hazel eyes, 175#, interested in meeting white or Latin male for dating, friendship, and maybe more! (HIV- and hairy a plus!) 4925.

Long Haired Cock Sucker

Affectionate GWM, 43, "Bear", has intense lust for mutual mass grabbing. I'm eager to stifle pride, swell confidence, & take erupting man-seed with load-drenched bearded smile. Clean/sober. 4926.

Slim Gdldng Hip Retired Guy

Mustache, crewcut, 5'9", 150#, in good shape, versatile, HIV- seeks similar slim, 50+, facial hair guy. Short, small dick OK. Smoke OK. Safe only! 4927.

ISO Fit Distinguished Dad/Exec

Mature, intelligent, masculine, classy, sincere, very handsome, healthy, HIV+, quality GBM, 34, 5'9", 145#, ISO lang-or, fit, masculine, distinguished GWM, 40-50, Dad type/exec for high quality LTR. Sincere only. 4928.

Looking For Love

Goodlooking GWM, 39, 6', 180#, & HIV+, is seeking love. I have dark hair, & a mustache. I also have blue eyes, & smooth body. All nationalities welcome between 25-40 yrs. old. 4959.

Attractive Latino

Goodlooking Latino, 31, dark hair, brown eyes, goatee, looking for GWM for friendship or maybe more. Me: like to go out for dinner, go to movies, travel. Call me. 5006.

Certified Bottom 4 Certified Top

Active GWM, 38 yrs, 5'10, 125, 185#, Auburn/blue, Mustache, slim & semi-smooth, HIV, ISO LTR with masculine, muscular gay man of any race w/facial hair & also HIV. Civic Center or Tenderloin area only. 5007.

Basics

I am a HIV+ top, 5'8", 135 lbs. brn/hazel, mustache. Are you a HIV+ bottom, 5'2", 175 lbs. mustache? Interested. Are passion and integrity important to you, too? If so, call me, we should meet. 5008.

Boy Wanted

Boy, 18-40, in Sonoma co. to teach me to be your dad your way. UB slim, sincere, oral. Me: 5'10", brn/bl, 120#, hung, HIV+. Let's talk. 5009.

Top-Looking Bottom Seeks

Bottom-looking top, 5'6", 270#, hairy-chested, bearded, brown/buzzed. Excited by top-to-bottom, blonde or red-headed, smooth, boyish types. Nerds a plus! 5010.

My Fat, Hairy Ass

Needs an overwise conversationalist exercise companion. Let's walk & talk all over the city—burning calories & forming a friendship. 5011.

Grandpa's Boy

GWM, 39, 5'10", 150#, looking for single WM age 58-70, bald, gay, slender, no smoker, must be clean, good natured. Intelligence + + +. 5012.

Tall Texans Seek Asian Third

Attractive GWC, HIV+, 40's, seeking attractive Asian third for regular hot loving, possible LTR. We're passionate, loving & sincere. You be too. 5014.

HIV+ Bottom ISO HIV+ Top For

DTNG & poss. LTR. GWM, HIV+, bottom, 42, 6', 180#, bald, buzzcut, hzl, gd/gk, masc., gym toned, sensitive, romantic. Enjoy working out, photography, movies, reading. 5015.

Companion Wanted...

By English gentleman. A "Doctor Watson" type, disinterested, outgoing, etc. very respectable. I am mid-aged, dominant, intellectual. 5016.

Stats And Facts

Professional GWM, 40 something, bl/bl, 5'10", 160#, HIV-, ND/NS, stable and ready for LTR, seeks similar, age 35-45, for romance and adventure! 5017.

I'm Mr. Right (But For Whom?)

Well end, & well endowed, 6', 175#, 40, in EB. Enjoy outdoors, music & a bunch of other stuff. I think I'm pretty intelligent. I know I'm a top. 5018.

Black Man Short Natural Dreads

Beard, HIV-, 160 #, 6'1", 40, seeks friends. I'm a musician, masseur, gardener, a music teacher. NS/ND/NO. I'm vegetarian. I'm into spiritual practices & simple living. I live in a small cabin in Mendocino county & visit SF often. Not looking for sex buddy. 5029.

N. Bay Artist Seeks Partner
I'm tall, cute, independent, sweet, tough, confident, unaffected, romantic, humanitarian & a very horny bottom, HIV+ & UB similar top, hairy, butch, horny. A Bay Area traveler. Let's explore romance together! ☎ 5024.

Seek African-American
Goodlooking muscular clean cut GWM, 34, 5'9", 172#, seeks similar (or larger) African-American men, 25-40, for friendship, fun... ☎ 5019.

God-Like, Magical Enchanting
Me: 21 y, WM, 140 lbs, brn/blu, very good-looking, attractive, slim-build, affectionate, warm, creative, empathic. You: 20's/30's, WM, model-caliber looks, muscular, masculine, strong, dominant/top, confident, looking for deep intimacy with another guy. ☎ 5020.

I Had A Dream Of You...
Me: 37, 5'11", 155#, handsome, into life, most everything. Looking for my dream in life. Call for details. Oh, how your overalls cling to your sweaty hip. ☎ 5021.

Snuggle Buddy Wanted
GWM, 38, 6', 165 lbs, Italian/German, HIV+, brown/hazel, goatee seeks some nurturing and cuddling with a masculine, affectionate, tall, lean, Caucasian. ☎ 5022.

Older Heavyset Seeks Younger
GWM seeks GWM for friendship poss. relationship. Must be 18-24, skinny/smooth, no facial hair, no taller than 5'9", 1 am 30, 5'9", 232#, hairy. ☎ 5023.

All American Boy
GAM, 26, 5'10", 155#. Looking for a man, 23-35, any race, active, clean cut, tone, into adventure and sensual experiences. A versatile top with an expressive mind. ☎ 5025.

ABC Of Family Values:
Our family relationship begins as (A) suck your dick so well that you (B) shoot your heaviest cream, which I (C) swallow as Holy Communion, making you a living part of me! S 5026

Handsome Athletic Friendly
Smooth Asian male is interested in receiving strong, extended, sensual, full body oil massages from experienced massage persons on a regular basis. All replies will be answered. ☎ 5027.

Silk And Nylons
Horny GWM Daddy ISO GWM bottom in panties, party-hose etc. UB: 50yr+, bottom in bed & equal partner out. Me: 40's & hung. We: enjoy role playing. ☎ 5028.

Goldk Exec. Type
50 y GWM, 5'10", 190#, healthy, pos., hung, uncult, ISO masc. hot man oral expert & Bears A+. Call for more! ☎ 5073.

HIV+ Hunks
Come meet interesting, intelligent, attractive, HIV+ gay men at our body positive parties & social events. All types of men. Find friends, romance or both. S 5074.

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Seeking Asian Top Mostly
GWM seeks healthy, dependable, Asian stud who spunks & is condom crazy. A caring person while perpetually & eternally horny. Humorous & witty too. ☎ 4824.

ISO Dirty Talking Hot Top
Big dick, big balls, big loads & kinky fantasies 2 talk and...? Man-smells, hot way, WS, all +s. GWM, 37, 5'5", 150#, attractive, well-built, hungry adventurous bottom. ☎ 4825.

Top Man Needed
5'11", it brown, big, needs it bad. Come give it to me! ☎ 4826.

Serious Fuckers Only!
If you like hot, juicy raw fucks w/ a well fucked ass. 1 on 1 or groups, cum fuck GWM, 39, 5'11", 142#, goatee, shaved head. ISO men ht/wt prop. masc. & serious only. This ass is ready now! ☎ 4827.

At Your Beck And Call
Very attractive clean cut, 29 y bottom boy seeks GWM/GLM tops to service. Hairy chest/musculine a must. I'm daddy's boy. Uncut A+. ☎ 4828.

Top Fist Daddy Is
Goodlooking, proportionate, 6'1", 40's, hairy, seeking proportionate fist bottom. ISO gaining experience. Once or reg basis. Younger, hung, uncult, BB=pluses. Will travel discreet. ☎ 4829.

Looking For Mature Asians
44yo, GWM, 170, HIV+, wants the pleasure of sucking Asians 40+ & AM passionate & versatile to other pleasures. Hoping for friendship also. Mar/bi OK too. ☎ 4831.

Oral Buddy Needed
Handsome, sexy, GWM, 36, 5'10", 185#, loves to give & receive oral sex, "69", looking for a man that swallows. You: 18-35, horny, attractive & proportioned. Regular sessions possible. ☎ 4832.

Anything Goes In Santa Rosa
Video night at Richards. Have excellent collection or bring your own & your buddies. If you wish. ☎ 4833*

Uncut Sexy Not Young
Me: 5'6", 152#, hair S/P, hazel eyes, big mustache, likes to make love. Bicycle. Movies, gym, garden, sun, entertain, healthy food, ND/NS, HIV+ OK. ☎ 4834.

Need Great Oral Service?
Young Asian. Slim built, very attractive & healthy. Want to service handsome & in-shape guys, 18-28 y, white or Latino. Lunch hours. After work & etc.. Satisfaction guaranteed. ☎ 4835.

Asian Seeks Asian Top
In weekdays 9 to 3 AM, 6', 165#, hot, handsome & gym toned. U be in shape, under 45 with rock hard tool & love to fuck. Hung & buffed A+. ☎ 4836.

UCB Frat Brothers
Need servicing. We're always horny. Can you take on seven of us? If you can, call now. ☎ 4837.

Horny Hung 100% Italian BB 28
New in town from Miami. 6'1", 215#, ripped, hung 9 1/2 X 6 1/2 is looking for horny musc guys for hot sex on regular basis. no boyfriends or shallow World Gym/Universe muscle crowd. S 4838.

Hammer Me Hard With Your Cock
Smooth, clean cut, 28 y AM ISO well endowed men 40 y or below. Must be dominant & ready for long sessions. Look at my tight bubble butt & fuck it. ☎ 4839.

Cocksucker Extraordinaire
Me: 37, 5'11", 155#, handsome, into life, most everything. Looking for my dream in life. Call for details. Oh, how your overalls cling to your sweaty hip. ☎ 5021.

GAM 24 yrs of Age
Looking for GWM between 20-37 yrs. Goodlooking top & bottom. Interested in having good time. ☎ 4841.

Dominant Man
65 yrs, 6ft, 180#, sensible, wants oral service, affection & more from submissive friend. ☎ 4830.

GAM Looking For GWM
Between the ages of 20 to 38 years of age. Looking forward to having real good time. Top N Bottom. ☎ 4842.

Shy Top Needs Assertive Bottom
For weekday sessions. I'm 6', 165#, beard, oral, late 40's. You: any age, bear type or nice nip A+. But all considered. ☎ 4859.

Fuck Buddies Wanted
Goodlooking GWM ISO Greek active tops—French A/P, 6'3", 170#, S/P hair, muscular, goatee, smooth, 47, seeks other HIV+, smokers for sex. No S&M, drags, HU/WT prop. ☎ 4850.

Hot Hispanic Top
Latin stud into adventuresome fun seeks 40+ eager to please. Leather a plus. ☎ 4861.

Sex, Sex, Sex!
GWM, Italian, hairy, hung, top, 40, 190#, brn/blu, beard, in-shape, have LTR, need more hot sex w/WM GWM, SF, Versatile & hairy A+. ☎ 4862.

80% Top Top 20% Lousy Bottom
SH switch needs training: sexy rain, threshold. Can you toughen me up? ISO training from experienced, masculine Top. Expand limits with discipline & affection. Great playroom provided. Blue Collar/Ex-military A+. ☎ 4863.

Obedient Top Boy
Order me to kiss, hug, massage, and f--- your brains out! Obedient sexy top boy, 34, seeks handsome bottom, 18-41, for tons of fun. Collar, leash, restraints available. ☎ 4929.

Your Secret Desire Is
To use your ass & mouth to serve a dark, handsome Asian/Hawaiian Prince, 35, with defined muscular body. He loves to pin you down & ride you with unbridled passion. He might even tie you up. ☎ 4930.

Latin Top Man Into Hot Sex
SH very sensitive. Seeks other Latin, whites, middle Eastern & blacks for fun & possible LTR. If you like foreign film, dining out, classical to Salsa music, pls call. Bilingual A+. ☎ 4931.

Nicaraguan Needs Love
I'm 30, 5'6", 150#, with smooth body. I have black hair, & mustache. I like walking Castro in my underwear. I'm seeking attractive white men between 30-45. I'm an Edge regular. ☎ 4932.

Santa Rosa Bi WM 50+ Pierced
Nipples shaved, pierced gentiles, wants kink partner any age, shape, my place. Smk/drunk OK. Let's get nude watch videos & 69. ☎ 4933.

No Gag Reflex—I Swear!
Zone out for comprehensive oral relief from this GWM with no gag reflex & hyper salivary throat. Other particulars: 6'170#/40's-challenged, big-grinned, big-hearted, & fairly big-brained nice fella. And welcome back returnees! ☎ 4956.

Tough Cowboy Wanted
To rope & tie the hide of this big, fit, sexy young boy. UB: masc, fit, sexy, firm, handsome. Pluses—tight wranglers/Levis, boots, belts, western wear, tough talk. Rope, whip & discipline this hot young boy. ☎ 4934.

Slave For A Day
And possibly many other days if accepted. Must be willing to serve with devotion, eager to expand limits. Me: 35, hung, in shape. ☎ 4935.

Handsome Horny Hot Homo
Seeks others into short hair, uniforms, leather, Levis, J-straps, stashes, goatees, shaved, nice asses, 69, rimming, sucking, no size hang ups. I'm HIV-. You? I'm discrete & experienced. ☎ 4936.

East Bay Pleaser Satisfies You
Love to fuck? Want practice? Let's really enjoy it! Slim, Oakland WM, 40, talented mouth & ass, craves sage, hot, fun guys. Locals preferred, but for great sex anything possible. ☎ 4937.

Pec Overdrive
Hard-muscled, masculine WM, 40, 6', 190#, HIV-, solid pecs, aching nipples. Seeks short, clean-cut, shy, buffed buddy with pec/nip fixation, hungry lips, for heart to heart encounter. ☎ 4938.

SF Over 50 WM Gummer Wanted
44, WM, 5'10", 165 lbs, med bid, brn/blu, musta, smoker, HIV-, 7" X 5 1/2" cut cock ringed meat, kicks back for hungry deep throater. I will come to your service only. ☎ 4939.

Tstanding, Does Your Boner Acre
Toward the floor? Circumcised? Extra-thick? (all of the above?—Drool!) If so, I want you—deeply! Me: 6'4", 300 lbs, W 41, HIV+, healthy. You: slender/athletic, WLB, healthy & horny. Don't delay, call today. ☎ 4940.

Hot Piece Of Muscle Ass Wanted
Dominate, muscular, fuck stud, versatile, 37, 6'1", 185#, seeks boys/men, 20-38, w/muscular non-fat butts & muscular waists who love an 8" dick up their ass. ☎ 4941.

ISO: Hot Top W/Filthy Mouth & Gd Imagination for obscene AM talk, maybe more. Big dicks, balls, loads, uncuts, man smells, spanking, light bondage, WS, All +s. GWM, 37, 5'5", 145#, at-traction, well-built, adventurous bottom. ☎ 4942.

Cock Worship & Play
Let me play yours! Let it, stroke it, suck it. Play w/your balls & watch you shoot! You can do the same w/licking for a warm, fun discreet time w/day afternoons. Me: 40's, nice, trim, HIV- friendly. ☎ 4943.

Got Foreskin? Wkday Playtime
Let me pull it, stretch it, put my tongue or lubed finger inside & circle your cockhead. Move your skin up & down your shaft for sensual J/O, kissing, exploring hands. You can play w/it cut cock. Smooth, trim, HIV-, 40's, v discreet. Wkday play. ☎ 4944.

You're Gettin' My Belt On Your Ass. Rough butt spankings for bad boys. Hand, paddle & strap. I'm 38, tall, muscular, HIV+, fantasies? You know you need it. All calls returned. ☎ 4945.

Dick Suckers/Cum Eaters
HIV+, healthy, masculine & hot. 30's to 50's for mutual or non-reciprocal oral hedonism. Prefer U/C. E. Bay only. Leave description. Race/weight unimportant. ☎ 4946.

Expert Cocksucker
Senior GWM, 5'7", 130#, begs to worship mask, verbal toman, over 40, wgt. proportion. Caut or Asian. ☎ 4947.

AI Oral Service Delivered
SF GWM, HIV-, 6', handsome, delivers complete oral service to mature trim guys who really dig getting sucked off. Your place. No reciprocation. HIV-. ☎ 5030.

Daytime Action Downtown Hotel
WM, 38, 5'8", 150#, into oral sex. Drop by and drop your pants. You won't be disappointed. Visiting SF 2/28-3/5. ☎ 5044.

Seeking Low Hanging Balls
I'm turned on by low hanging balls in a ball stretcher. I'll orally service you and/or you can fuck me. Piercings a plus. HIV+ OK. ☎ 5031.

I Am A BM 38
6'1", 195#, looking for someone 18-50 for fun. Must be hung 9" or more. I want to BJ you. ☎ 5047.

GWM 6'2", 170#, 8 1/2" HIV+
Vers. bottom seeks GWM/GLM for hot sex and dating. Leave a message & I'll get back to you. ☎ 5033.

Wanted: Big Firm Butt
Versatile, 5'11", well-built, hung big needs Cau men, 20-30's, well built w/bub hairy bubble butt to eat & fuck. ☎ 5034.

Be Happy And Surprise
HIV-, handsome, GWM, 5'9", 163#, med 40's, seeks GWM, 48-65, with a big thick dick that enjoys oral service for hours. Also you'll be in for a surprise too! ☎ 5035.

Bubble Butt Pussy Boy
Seeking top Daddy/big brother for hot times. Boy is 37, 5'7", 135#, mustache, goatee, shaved head & tattoos. ☎ 5036.

Butch Hungry Santa Rosa Bottom
Deep throat expert, hairy hole. I'm 6'1", 33, 190#, healthy HIV+, must/bud, fat cock/balls, very masculine. Seeks in shape, hung 8", butch tops. Beards A+. ☎ 5037.

Wntd: Handsome HIV+ Men/Boys
Xtra handsome man, 30's, 5'10", 165#, brn/blu, smooth, clean shaven, masculine, oral, frisky ISO hot HIV+ man/boys for oral release. ☎ 5038.

Let's Get It On
Big daddy top, 200 lbs, 48, into submissives 35+ w/ht & Ltn bottoms eager to please & abuse. Masc. plays safe. Horny-sensuous-experienced. ☎ 5039.

Tantric Shaman
Will train apprentice (prefer 18-32, before Saturn returns—to 40 considered) in exchange for cooking and cleaning etc. on occasional weekend retreats or live in, rustic country cabin. ☎ 5040.

Dominant Man 35
Seeking submissive house slave for regular use & abuse. Age, looks unimportant. Must have strong desire to please. ☎ 5041.

Do You Love To Give Head?
Looking for guys who really like giving head. I'm GWM, 49 and very appreciative. Leave phone # age/race. Not important. ☎ 5042.

Identify With This?
Instability. Carnality. Crave. Desire. Passion. Urged. Eroticism. Satisfy. Fulfill. Amorous. Carnal lust. Yearn. Hungry to get off by a hot Italian? Call me now. ☎ 5043.

Black East Bay Top Man, Mature
With Texas size equipment enjoys husky boy, Hispanic & body builder bottoms. Availability, sincerity and discretion guaranteed. Mustache essential. Direct phone # please. ☎ 5032.

6'5" Irish German Daddy
Seeks synergy with goals oriented boy who does science & likes the outdoors. Please be original, very smart, cute, and a lover of the ironic. ☎ 5045.

Masc GAM Top ISO GWM BB
Massage and body worship for buffed jockstrapped/bodybuilder daddies, coaches and jocks. Show off your hard work for coach/masseur. ☎ 5046.

ISO Rare Breed Black Bear
Versatile GWM, 51, 6'2", 240#, stache, wants to play with husky black men. Good kisser, tit & ass play A+. ☎ 5048.

Beginner Needs Be FF
WM, HIV-, 115#, 5'2", brn/blu. Very, very little, hairy ass. Wants to be probed all the way! Slow & east. Also BT too. I'm looking for an expert on a regular basis. I also love to suck big cocks. That excite me. Let's talk soon. ☎ 5050.

Afternoon Sex Buddy Wanted
Ass massage, Erotic spanking. Me: top, GWM, 46, 6'5", 250 lbs, heavy build, mustache, hairy chest/stomach. You: attract, GWM, 18-35, slim, smooth/moderate body hair, nice buns. ☎ 5049.

Hot/Pos
WM, 37, muscular, hot, bubble butt, ISO, HIV+, fitness minded man for hot sex. Call ad for specs. ☎ 5051.

FETISHES

Spankings For Bad Boys...
Needing humiliation & reddened butt cheeks! Be 18-35, cute, obedient with round bottom. Safe asshole, fingering, possible. Whispering, crybabies & beginners firmly banned. SJ or SF. ☎ 4843.

Nasty
Give me your nasty asshole & I'll give you mine. Bk male, 39, 9", seek versatile scat fuck buddy. You blk or Latino, in good shape, hung. ☎ 4844.

Let's Pull Down Our Pants & JO
Belt unbuckled? Fly unbuckled/unziped? Hard-on in your shorts (boxers, briefs)? GWM seeking men 30+ y into JO w/their pants (jeans, khakis, slacks) open/dropped slacks, uniforms A+. ☎ 4845.

Derby Jackers & Hoods
Hooded punk in South Bay, blue collars services boot stompers, guys in derby jackets, bens, beanies. Cholos, street punks, blue collar dudes. Let's cum wearing our Bens, Derby's. ☎ 4846.

Got Skin—I Service
Love that skin—need that skin-please give me that skin I will suck stretch tongue chew to your delight. 6 1/2-8". Semi hard A+. ☎ 4847.

Flex Your Muscles
WM, late 40's, seeks muscular guy of any size into flexing, posing, & being admired. Love baseball, biceps, hot pecs. Especially seek very muscular Asian. ☎ 4848.

Are You Up For Pec/Nipple Play?
Muscular GWM, 6', 215#, 47" chest, top, looking for men with huge pecs/sensitive nipples for intense, sensual peccounding, nipple sucking workouts. Soft or rough, your call. ☎ 4849.

Spiritually Direct BDSM
Long, slow, deep, careful, conscious, whole-person BDSM, ND. Versatile WM, 50, 5'8", 175#, muscular, bald, longtime yoga. Very fit prefers same. ☎ 4850.

Giant-Sized Dicks Sought By
Giant-sized bear (40, HIV+), healthy, no gag-reflex for deep throat action. Cut blacks over 11" & cut redheads a plus. Prefer slender/athletic & NS. No reciprocation. ☎ 4851.

Scat Water Sports
Young looking 55, GWM, seeks white, handsome, 22-45, Me: 5'10", 190#, hairy chest, mustache, short beard, brn/blu, HIV-. No tats, femms. Latino OK. ☎ 4864.

Italian Skis Scabs
Or open wounds. Turned on by oozing sores, scrapes & cuts. I'm well hung & want to fill all your holes. Skateboarders most welcome. ☎ 4865.

Huge Enlarged Nipples And Pecs
On handsome, smart, GWM muscle boy, 18-32, wanted by cute boyish GWM, 25, hunky, slender, gym-toned, with hot pierced nipples for mutual nipple play, body worship, affection, safe sex. ☎ 4866.

Beginner At FF Seeks Practice
Me: GWM, 25, 150#, 6'3", shaved head, stash, goatee. You: under 50, sane with sense of humor, and a patient, clean hole. Facial hair, bald, hairy A+. ☎ 4867.

Hot Rim Job
Does your hole protrude, got lots of lip on it. Let my long hot tongue work it good. You in shape, 21-45. Me: hot, handsome, 5'11", 165#, 40. ☎ 4948.

Watersports
GWM, 32, handsome, seeks uncut Asian, Latino, & white men, 25-35, for same wet fun. I love piss, cum, cheese, & smelly clothes. You, too? Then let's hook up! ☎ 4949.

Tie You Up & Tie Me Down
Attractive GWM gym-toned, 35, 5'9", 150#. I'm seeking someone to explore S&M, bondage for erotic torture pleasure. You must be under 40, gym-toned, trim, let's talk soon. ☎ 4950.

Boot Licker!! Sneaker Sniffer!!
Toe sucker! Mature Obedient, deep throat expert will kneel to worship & service well hung men who know what they want. ☎ 4951.

Man W/Toe Ring Skis Foot Partner
Lifelong excitement looking at/fantasticizing about men's barefeet. Masculine, good-looking East Bay GWM, 5'9", 140#, tan, moderately hairy, HIV-, loves reciprocal kissing, licking, massaging barefeet, safe J/O. Further friendship possible. ☎ 4952.

Have A Foot Or Leg Injury?
Are you in a cast, brace, bandages, wheelchair or crutches? Or just have big swollen feet. Age unimportant. Prefer white/Latino. Me: Asian, 23, 5'8, 158#, attractive workout. ☎ 5053.

Daytime Asshole Eater
"Get your asshole eaten by a pro." ☎ 4953.

Ouch!
Spank me, tie me up, jack me off slowly while looking into my eyes. Sexy boy, 30, 5'8", 130#, seeks take charge man. ☎ 4954.

Have Cam Corder
Looking for guys into being on film for private collection. You get a copy. Tops/Bottoms—Leather, bondage-FFB big dicks, butt eater, sound receiver. ☎ 5052.

WM Teddy Bear Skis Dom. BM
I need spankings, piss, humiliation, and obedience training from a trustworthy, circumcised BM (any weight/endowment size) longing to be served by a part time WM Slaveboy. No experience necessary. ☎ 5054.

Experienced Vac-Pumper Meat-Up
Hot, 38, 180#, 6', hung, bearded, masculine pumper looking for hung masculine, experienced pump buddies into long, messy, sleazy pumping, jackoff and mega-huge cock, ball & tit play. Be experienced. ☎ 5055.

Nipple Master
Service and training for GWM. Do you need yours worked? enlarged? pumped? tortured? Have great selection of tit toys. John. ☎ 5056.

Bondage
Dominant, well hung male, 38, 5'10", 160#, 8" likes to tie up and use other in shape guys. Limits respected, discretion important. S 5057.

COUPLES

E B GWM Bear Cpl ISO Masc 3rd
For hot, safe fun. We're 40's, handsome, goatees, hairy, tall, HIV-. Both 240# (+/-). You: 30+ y, versatile (GKAP, FRA/P), HIV-, willing to travel to E Bay, 200#. Pluses: hairy, blue collar, bisexual. ☎ 4855.

Masculine Italian Man
Clean cut, gym toned, 5'9", 170#, and 41 yrs young seeks 3 ways with a stable male couple under 40 for regular fun sessions. Be fit or weight prop. ☎ 5057.

GW Couples Wntd By Sexy GAM!
GAM, handsome, 29, boy-next-door seeks couples who enjoy being watched. I can be persuaded to join as well! ☎ 5058.

OTHER

SF Opera Buddy Wanted
Saturday evenings, five operas, orchestra, row, J, ticket price only, no donation surcharge. Let's talk. ☎ 4852.

Looking For Private T-Room
Muscle stud is making a video for a friend. Seeks T-room or other sleazy locations. I'm 5'8"m 220#, eager to strip & show. ☎ 4853.

Hot Photos
If you have any old hot gay photos, nude or otherwise—Don't destroy them—I'd like them. ☎ 4854.

Masseur Seeks Apprentice
18-45, athletic, HIV-, NS/ND/NDR. Learn sensual massage & fantasy exploration. Private living quarters plus board for part time massage assistance. Santa Rosa area. ☎ 4955.

Erotic Valentine Massage
Live/Pos/Video/Massage for body-builders or athletes, 18-24, WM Golds gym A+. (Serious only/Discreet) ☎ 5059.

Bi Curious Virgin
ISO B/A pre or TS/TV to make sensual love to/worship in hot, sexy, clothes. Let me treat you as the beautiful wonderful woman you are. ☎ 5060.

Please Love Me Daddy
Visiting from Canada, 35, 6'2", 190#, HIV+, masculine, handsome seeks Daddy, big brother type for cuddling, affection & more. ☎ 5061.

Gay Asian Singers Wanted
GAPA (Gay Asian Pacific Alliance) chorus recruiting gay/Asian pacific men to sing and socialize, no formal training necessary, all skills levels welcome. We meet every Wednesday night. S 5062.

BAR TALK

PERSONALS ARE FREE!

CATEGORY

Parting Glances ☐

Seeking Relationship ☐

Seeking Adventure ☐

Lesbian ☐

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Headline, 30 characters maximum

Write the rest of your ad here, 30 words maximum

Name _____

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Daytime Telephone _____

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MAIL FORM TO: BAR Talk

PERFORMANCE

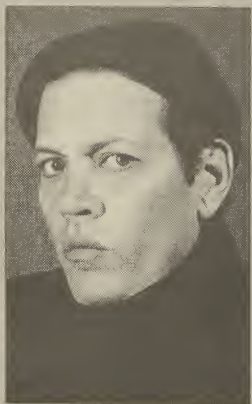
Angel returns

San Francisco-based performer, writer, and activist Adrian Brooks will perform "Blessings in Disguise" on Friday, February 21 (7 p.m.) at the Unitarian Church, 1187 Franklin St. The event is a benefit for Q Spirit, formerly "Berdache," a gay man's spiritual group.

"Blessings in Disguise" pays homage to Romance. In Brooks' own words: "I want to share the true story of a meeting — and subsequent affair — with my psychic double, a young Dutch man I met in India in 1989. This work is a tribute to a phenomenal love that certainly seemed predestined to happen. Beautiful and sad, tragic and triumphant, it is a haunting tale that will find utterance in a spontaneous, improvised performance combining storytelling, poetry and dynamic action-painting while inviting audience participation."

Brooks has been in the international art world since childhood, as his globe-trotting parents collected art, ran a gallery, and published criticism. In the '60s, Brooks joined the Friends World Institute, an international Quaker college, founded with the avowed aim of producing "agents of social change" via non-violent revolution. He studied with Dr. Martin Luther King, and, later, studied anthropology in Mexico and East Africa.

After living in New York in the early '70s, where he was associated with Warhol's crowd, Brooks settled in San Francisco, where he became a prime mover of the "Angels of Light," a radical collective free theater. After "Holy Cow" (1979 to 1980) established the Angels as a unique national treasure, Brooks retired from the company. In 1983, he wrote and starred in "Leni Riefenstahl," a trial drama that examined the life of the infamous German film director. After a decade of living in Europe and India, Brooks has returned to San Francisco, where he continues to write and present experimental performance pieces. ▼



Cynthia Desautels

by Sweet Lips

The Polk Rendezvous, under the management of the fabulously talented David Kapp, is starting something new on Fridays called "Last Friday." Okay, the honorific sucks, but the news here is that from 5-8 p.m. on Fridays drinks and hors d'oeuvres are now \$1 off. "Last Friday" begins Friday, February 28. You know you'll be there.

Better shine that tiara, queen. On Friday, February 21 (5-7 p.m.), The Giraffe will host the Silver

Jubilee of the Emperor Council of San Francisco. This promises to be yet another spectacle in the long tradition of the You Know What. It's sure to be a fabulous blow-out, as all the usual crones will be on hand, loaded down with their broken jewelry and filthy fake fur coats. Let's hope this time they won't make such a mess of the place. The event will be catered by Dennis "Ergot and Emetrol" Tyler, and the glorious decor will be engineered by that exquisitely talented florist, Empress II Bella. The 21st is also the birthday of the stunningly gifted "Stern," who should thank his lucky stars that I don't know his actual age.

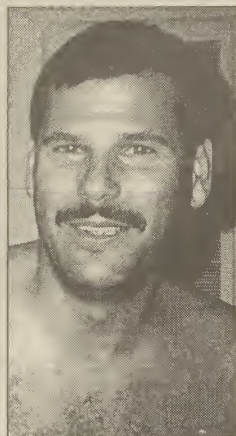
In other Court news, Saturday the 22nd is the big Coronation, and on Sunday, the 23rd, Empress

Jose makes her annual trek to the graveside of the late Emperor Joshua Norton. If you've never celebrated this event with Jose, you should. You haven't lived until you've seen an old queen in drag prostrate herself on a piece of stone and wail like a dog at the moon. High camp. Call 673-6160 if you wanna join the caravan.

The big event closing the month of February is John Wise's semi-retirement bash, set for the weekend of February 22-23 at Rick's Gold Room. This is going to be one of those marathon events, so light-weights might want to remember how to pace themselves.

Happy birthday to the Pendulum Bar, which turns 29 on March 6. How time does fly. It seems like just yesterday they were celebrating their opening, which was one of the wilder nights in my already scandalously debauched life. Ah, the '70s. Congratulations to that randy staff — stalwarts all — and to the Pendulum's many faithful customers.

Hey, guess who's tending bar at Charpes Bar & Grill? Why it's none other than that embarrassment of riches on two legs Tom Wagner, who, for so many years, waltzed the plank at the Gate and gave so copiously of that natural gift for gab. Her new schedule — oops, I meant *his* — is nights, Monday through Wednesday. Happy hour at Charpes is 4-7

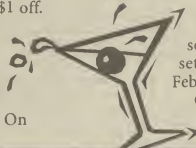


David Kapp, manager of the Polk Rendezvous

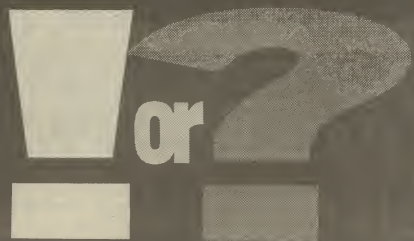
daily, so drop in and have one of Dave's mind-bending martinis.

People are already buzzing about the big "Closet Ball," set for Saturday, May 3. My sources tell me there are already oodles of contestants lined up. So, if you wanna be a part of the fun, call David Webb at The Giraffe for more information.

Finally, don't forget that Emperor Bobby Pace is still out there, toiling away at Linda's Phone Booth. Do drop in and have a drink with Bobby, and if you do, ask him what we did together that night so many years ago at the Pendulum. ▼



Cocktail Hour



To be competitive today an advertiser needs to target his market. Advertisers in this publication know exactly the audience they are reaching. They get facts, not guesstimates or promises. The reason — we're audited by Verified, a national auditing service respected for over 40 years in the publishing industry. Verified's field and internal audits give our advertisers the facts they need and help us keep our distribution in top shape.

We are just as committed to giving our advertisers honest and precise circulation data as we are to providing our readers with interesting and valuable information. Credibility and integrity are an integral part of our business plan.

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BAY AREA REPORTER PERSONALS

MESSAGE

Canadian Boy 415-487-7600. Friendly Grad student. Swedish-Sport Massage, San Francisco-SFO-Peninsula. Sensual E08

Passionate Bodywork
Full body massage by Tall Texan
6'6", 195#, nice bod beard 60/ln, 80 out.
Attractive Attentive Affectionate
WAYNE • 252-7443 E08

NAKED, NASTY & HOT!!
Very erotic & sensual rub given by Handsome, nude guy-Scott-564-1550 E08

GAY ASIAN
Trained professional certified massage therapist (415) 474-3698 E08
Surrender Esalan Shiatsu
415-224-3651. Out. \$40 E08

Surrender the stress in my strong Hands & calm the commotion with My caressing touch. Sweet & sexy 24 yo will make your day much brighter. Enjoy a natural, intuitive massage combining elements of acupressure, Reiki & Swedish with a unique erotic twist \$60/hr Zane 224-1419 E08
Erotic bodyrub \$30/hr. 641-9058 E08

let a pro handle it



PERSONALS

MASSAGE

TOM ADVENTURESOME
Built tight, muscular and hung
Blond man, 34, 6', 210 lbs.
Very friendly guys over 30
preferred. Sensual massage
in the buff
\$45 in/\$60 out 24 hrs.
563-1302

FULL BODY MASSAGE
BY
Goodlooking,
Friendly, Masculine,
Discreet, South
American
Latin Male
RAY-415-863-4236
415-519-4841

PENINSULA
Nude
Swedish
\$55
75 mins.
by CMT
Anthony
(415) 324-1686

massage
in Marin
healing
nurturing
relaxing
steven
KLOMAN
c.m.t.
256-1352

NUDE MASSAGE-CUTE GUY
5'5", 135#, NICE CHEST &
ARMS, SMOOTH BODY,
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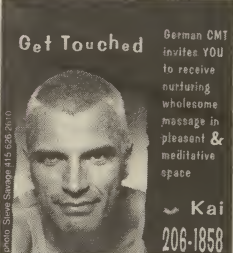
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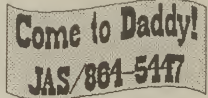

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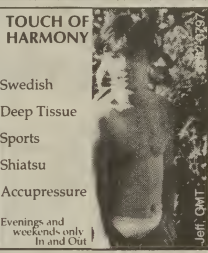
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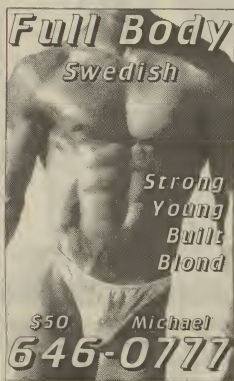
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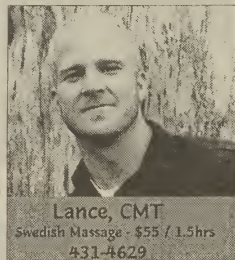
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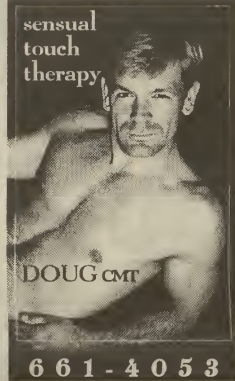
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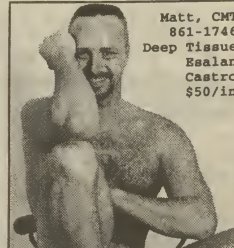
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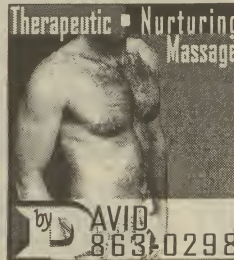
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hands, offer intuitive, erotic touch.
\$40/1 hr. \$50/1 1/2 hrs. Out calls

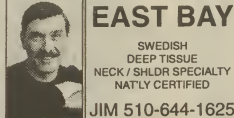
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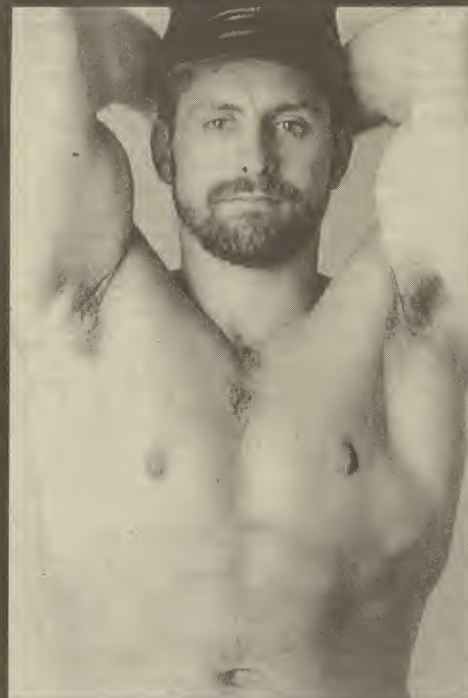
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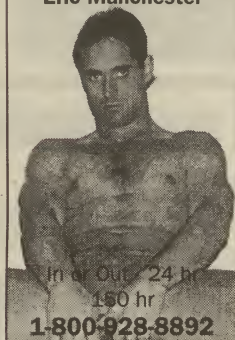
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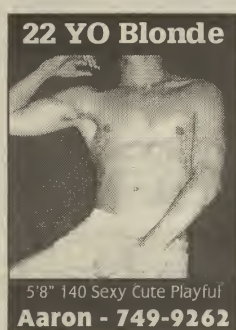
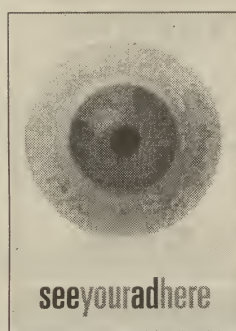
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24 Y/O VARSITY SWIMMER. TOP.
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HOT GUY • ATHLETIC
BIG UNCUT DK**
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PAGER • 487.6270

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Wild Top Boy for Frenzied Fun
5'9\", 140lbs.
Smooth, 9\"/>

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Tough dominant top, 38yo, 6'1", 210#,
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Nothing But Satisfaction
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 Eyes. Bryan (415) 605-1383

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 Both 23 well hung, short hair cinct
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 1 Br/Br 6' Beautiful Ass 280-7851

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HOT LEATHER BOY TOY
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 And a sweet bubble butt. Call this boy
 Next door. page Andy 708-5388 \$80

Butch Blue Collar Kinky Leather Top
 FF, BD, Toys, Raunch Jack 522-8760

23 Cute Blond Long Hair 155# 6'
 Smooth Outcalls Only 474-9665

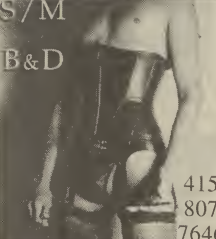
HOT COLLEGE BOY
BLOND, SEXY, VERSATILE
 23, nice, slender physique, hung Dave
 668-9053/376-3300 Pgr In & Out


SLAVE WILL SUBMIT
 Handsome, Masculine, Well-
 Built, B&D, Kink, Fantasy,
 Role-Playing, All Scenes
 OK In/Out David 527-8124

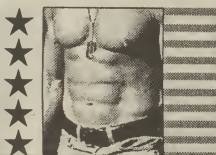
CZECH STUDENT HOT 19
 Good looking Good time & massage
 24 Hours, \$120 an hour pg 313-1552

ROUGH BLK TRADE 8"
 Wants2 force U2 your knees. To use
 my thick blk manhood 30yo attract,
 Muscle, 5'8" C41 W29 A16 Th24 No
 Drug/Rushjob Verb/Domination OK
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 master into all aspects &
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S/M
B&D

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 Cute German • 6'2" • 175#
 Smooth • 9"uncut In • Hotel • Res.
JOE 415.790.1630 pager

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33, 5'7", 130, vrstl, kinky, smooth, 7" cut
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 Affectionate, pgr 741-7061/H929-1803

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 6'1", 180#, blue eyes, black boots
 24 hrs • Pgr 313-5854

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 Masc, built, hung, top, out calls
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 Need a helping hand? Slow • Easy • Firm
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Jeff- Muscular Swimmer's Build
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 Chisled chest, defined abs, broad
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Versatile 24 yo \$80 Absolutely No
 Drugs! 5'11", br/br, 180, 32/42"
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 24 yr old Blk/Blue 6'3", 240 lb Mus-
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 culine. 679-1684 Damion

HUNK/BODYBUILDER
 SHY JEFF 997-7307 PGR

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DOMINANT LEATHERMAN.
SM, BD, WS, CBT, FETISH.
ALL FANTASIES. 38YO.
6'1", 210#, BROWN HAIR,
BLUE EYES, FLAT TOP,
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BEGINNER TO HEAVY.
HAVE EQUIPMENT
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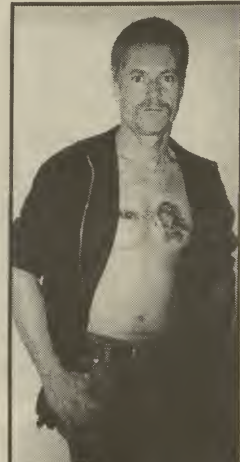

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 Boyish looks friendly, clean and
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 25 Years Old
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 very attractive
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 24HRS PGR 739-2864
 Sensual Msg, Escort
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 Discount for 2 Clients
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CORY 6'2" = 230 50 chest
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 27 yrs
 Masculine
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Honcho
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Dark
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807-9822**COLT COVER MODEL**Available for a limited time in
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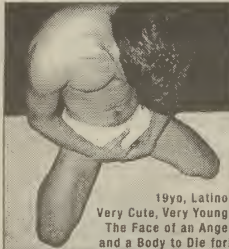
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**Extremely
Attractive**27 yrs
5'10"
#165
BlondScott
280-0821SONOMA COUNTY
S & M MASTERCome to this secluded spot out in the country and
surrender. Give yourself up to the power of masculine energy.
Let yourself be dominated by an experienced and highly-trained
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slowly, sensuously, and powerfully.**LUKE (707) 824-8040**

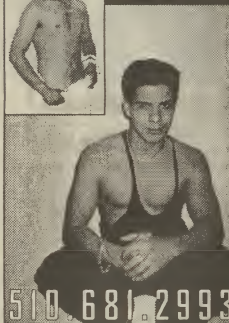
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exclusive male escorts

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24 HOURS'greg',
Young
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6'9" 230lb
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of massage
most scenes
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8885AUCEYU**SEXY TEEN BOY**19yo, Latino,
Very Cute, Very Young,
The Face of an Angel
and a Body to Die for!

Page 679-3451 Out Only

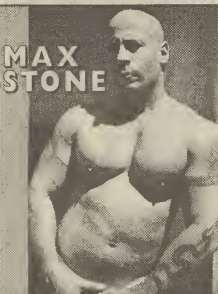
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TOP/BOTTOM**

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take two escorts...



and call me in the morning

Very Cute Blond Smooth Friendly Boy
HUGE 9.5"! SKATE PUNK
Hung & thick 24yo • 4U! Daniel 908-6758**LEATHER MASTER**Give it up to the Silver Fox.
Experienced masculine Marine image
Fully-equipped Russian River loc.
Safe & Sane (707) 869-9690• Hot Hawaiian-Jap Pornstar Out-Only
2 Rockhard globes of Butt! Hungry
• Hole • Hot, Sexy 28, 24HR 328-5304Italian Stud, Black hair, Brn eyes,
6ft, Swimmer's build, defined chest &
legs, Bedroom eyes, Beautiful ass, 8"
uncut. Outcalls Pref/Hotels
Gino, 22 Model looks Hourly/All night
Don't you want it now! 436-0402 VM**HANDSOME BOY**20 yo Latino 5'10", 145lbs, black
Hair, brown eyes, 7" uncut, olive
Complexion, smooth, clean cut with a
Nice boyish look pg 679-8843 Out only**GREEK GOD**6', 150 lbs. Thick jet-black hair.
Long eyelashes, defined lean toned
chest, beautiful sexy, yummy ass,
twin mounds of pleasure! Affection-
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• Super defined

w/ a beautiful ex

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• College athlete

• Hot top/bottom

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• 5'11"-175lbs

9"

24 hrs, 24 hrs, 24 hrs
Dark blonde hair, hazel eyes
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versatile Call anytime 837-8900
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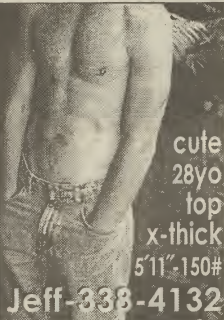
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Young Athletic Type.

All Levels of Experience.

Sensual Fingers to Fists.

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Lean Swimmer's Build
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BUTCH-HUNG**baseball biceps, hard buffed
body with a power tool ready
for action. Pgr: 207-6786cute
28yo
top
x-thick
5'11"-150#
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Handsome, Hung 9" • 337-4364**BONER • BOY • 8**1/2HIS 1/2 CHI LEAN BOYISH BTM
Dwtwn preferred, will travel
Page 1-800-624-7243 Pin# 2743723**EMANUEL \$50 1/2 HR**

TANNER, young, cute, caring

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6'2" 205 lbs VGL Hard Pgr 270-4152

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(916) 819-0447 Hot Sacramento Top

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Clean-cut Muscle Hung

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MOHAWK

23yo slender build • Tough but Sweet

MARK • 626-9306

Hot, Young, Tall, Smooth & Fun

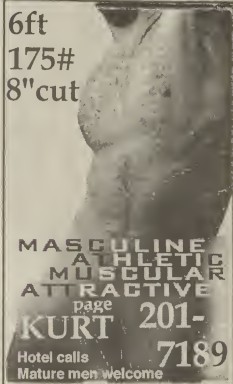
Alternative Boy • 21yo. in/out

MASON • 474-6786

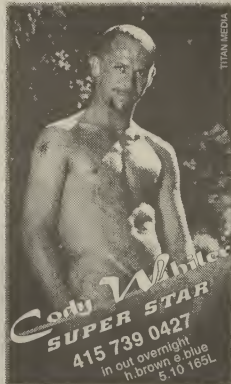
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MODELS/ESCORTS


6ft
175#
8" cut



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ATHLETIC
MUSCULAR
ATTRACTIVE
page
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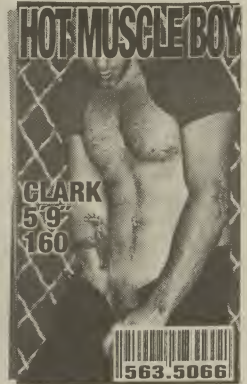
ANDRE 597-3613

RUSTY



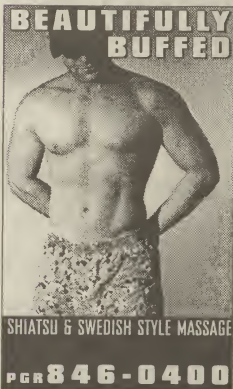
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FALCON MODEL
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HOT MUSCLE BOY



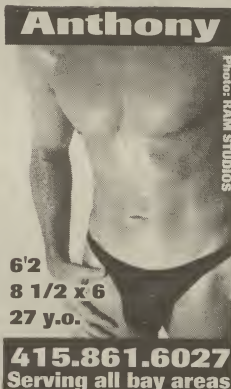
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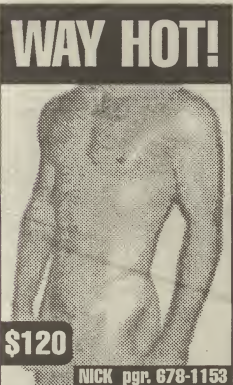
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FEB. 1996




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WAY HOT!




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TOP MAN**



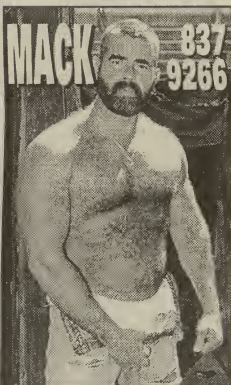

Raunchy
pink type
tattoos
piercings
LEATHER
hung
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& HARD
in/out
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most scenes
Randy
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MACK 837-9266

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